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Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7499th meeting

Thursday, 30 July 2015, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Mc Cully/Mr. Van Bohemen/Mr. Taula	(New Zealand)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Augusto
	Chad	Mr. Mangaral
	Chile	Mr. Riveros Marín
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Kononuchenko
	Spain	Mr. Gracia Aldaz
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Ms. Rodríguez de Febres-Cordero

Agenda

Maintenance of international peace and security

Peace and security challenges facing small island developing States

Letter dated 15 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/543)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Maintenance of international peace and security

Peace and security challenges facing small island developing States

Letter dated 15 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/543)

The President: I wish to warmly welcome the Heads of State and Government, the Secretary-General, Ministers and other distinguished representatives present in the Chamber. Their participation is an affirmation of the importance of the subject matter under discussion.

In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedures, I invite the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Egypt, Fiji, Georgia, Germany, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Luxembourg, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, the Federated States of Micronesia, Morocco, Nauru, the Netherlands, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine and Uruguay to participate in this meeting.

I request the Protocol Officer to escort His Excellency Mr. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, to his seat at the Council table.

Mr. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President: I request the Protocol Officer to escort Her Excellency Mrs. Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica, to her seat at the Council table.

Mrs. Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi and Her Excellency Mrs. Portia Simpson Miller.

On behalf of the Council, I also welcome His Excellency Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, Minister of Finance of the Seychelles.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Toke Talagi, the Premier of Niue, and His Excellency Mr. Mark Brown, Minister of Finance of the Cook Islands, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

I propose that the Council invite the Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See to the United Nations to participate in this meeting, in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure and the previous practice in this regard.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/543, which contains a letter dated 15 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I thank New Zealand and His Excellency Mr. Murray McCully, Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, for taking this very important and timely initiative to highlight the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States. I welcome the high level of participation in this debate, and thank Their Excellencies the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Prime Minister of Samoa and the Minister of Finance of the Seychelles for their participation. I also take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to the many ministers who have taken time to participate in this debate, and thank President Anote Tong of Kiribati for his participation.

I hope that today's debate of the Security Council will have a very big impact on and make a great contribution to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), to be held in Paris in December.

Last year's Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa, increased global attention not only to their contributions to sustainable development, but also to their unique vulnerabilities. The issues facing small island developing States (SIDS) are global challenges. They are our collective responsibility. Our first priority must be to support SIDS in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In spite of considerable efforts, progress has been uneven.

Secondly, we need a post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals that address the needs of SIDS. At the recent International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa, it was encouraging to see the concerns of SIDS reflected, including in such critical areas as debt, trade, technology and official development assistance. Earlier this month, I participated in a summit meeting of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held in Barbados. The leaders of CARICOM, whose countries are also SIDS, all expressed these concerns and described these vulnerabilities. I hope that our debate will really make a great contribution to addressing the challenges and vulnerabilities of SIDS.

Thirdly, we need to achieve a meaningful and universal global climate agreement in Paris in December. SIDS are on the front lines of climate change. Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu was only the latest in a long string of devastating events that SIDS have endured and will continue to endure as long as climate change is not adequately addressed. Caribbean countries sometimes experience as many as five hurricanes in a season.

The Security Council has rightly highlighted the threat of climate change to international peace and security. Rising sea levels, dying coral reefs and the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters exacerbate the conditions leading to community displacement and migration. They threaten to increase tensions over resources and affect domestic and regional stability.

Over the years, SIDS leaders have consistently called for global climate action. And they have been leading by example. Many SIDS have been accelerating their own transition to renewable energy to secure a sustainable energy future. We must support SIDS in their actions to combat climate change and adapt to its impacts. To that end, we need a politically credible trajectory for mobilizing the pledged $100 billion per year by 2020. The Green Climate Fund will need to be up and running before COP 21 in Paris in December, with projects and funding ready to go, especially for the most vulnerable. And, finally, we will need to ensure that a meaningful, universal climate agreement is adopted.

Climate change is not the only peace and security challenge facing the peoples and Governments of SIDS. SIDS are also focusing as never before on the menace of transnational organized crime. The threats include drug trafficking, human trafficking, piracy and wildlife crime. Caribbean SIDS are vulnerable to drug-trafficking and gang-related violence, which affect security and development. And with exclusive economic zones often larger than their land areas, SIDS also face the challenge of managing fisheries and preventing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, which undermines economies and contribute to insecurity.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its Maritime Crime Programme, is focusing on heroin trafficking, human trafficking, wildlife crime and fisheries crime. The programme works with States to introduce legislation, in line with international conventions, that will help to improve investigations and strengthen criminal justice responses against maritime crime. On piracy, Mauritius and Seychelles have been at the forefront of international cooperation in the Indian Ocean to apprehend and prosecute Somali pirates.

CARICOM and the Pacific Islands Forum have helped focus the attention of the international community on the heightened vulnerabilities that SIDS face and demand that the international community be attuned to these issues. But small island developing States do not have the resources to combat such threats by themselves. We can only secure their sustainable and peaceful future through global partnership.

Some 20 years ago, in Barbados, Governments made a global commitment to the sustainable development of

SIDS (see A/CONF.167/9). That bond was strengthened in Mauritius in 2005 (see A/CONF.207/11, Annex II). Now we have the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (General Assembly resolution 69/15, Annex) to guide us. Combatting climate change, promoting sustainable development and addressing the vulnerabilities of SIDS will demand partnership, capacity and leadership. Today, let us commit the resources of the United Nations system as a reliable partner to small island developing States as we work together for sustainable development and a life of dignity for all.

The President: I now give the floor to the Prime Minister of Samoa.

Mr. Malielegaoi (Samoa): Today's debate dedicated to addressing peace and security challenges facing small island developing States is a rarity in this Chamber. The Government of New Zealand is to be commended for this timely initiative, and we are grateful to members of the Security Council for providing a platform so that peace and security issues from the perspectives of small island developing States can be the focus of the Council's time and occupy centre stage, even if only for just a day.

The exceptional political capital demonstrated by the high-level of participation of small island developing States (SIDS) this morning is a strong reaffirmation that important issues entrusted to the Security Council are of equal priority and importance even to the smallest Member States of the United Nations. The SIDS message to the Council is unequivocal. No region, no group of countries and no selective security issues should continue to have a monopoly of the Council's time, attention and resources. SIDS form an important constituency of the Security Council in their own right, irrespective of their sizes, economic influence, political clout or military strength. Their concerns matter like everyone else's in this Chamber, their voices deserve to be heard, their views need to be understood and their challenges considered and addressed.

The Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) (General Assembly resolution 69/15, Annex) is our global pact. It is a blueprint of the needs and aspirations of SIDS, together with the opportunities and means to implement them. The agreed outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (A/CONF.223/10) held last year categorically reaffirmed the importance of peace and security issues for this special group. That is a part of the record of the United Nations, and we are not inventing something new.

To contextualize those challenges from the perspective of the Pacific region, one can say with confidence that we have largely maintained a peaceful and secure environment. On the surface of it, because we are not situated in the world's troubled spots nor are we homes to any of the current conflicts, it is tempting to equate that perceived tranquility with the absence of security challenges for our islands.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The Pacific's security concerns are varied, complex and many. A great external threat stems from globalization. The global context is changing rapidly. Relative isolation and remoteness no longer shield us from globalization's reach and impacts. Our vast ocean adds to our vulnerability in terms of security, and the difficulty of providing effective maritime policing and surveillance compounds that further. We have witnessed significant serious transnational organized crime activities in the region. They include drugs and firearms trafficking, financial crimes and money laundering, human trafficking and people smuggling, labour and sexual exploitation.

Some organized crime groups and networks are gradually becoming entrenched in our region, which will continue to test the ability of our capacity-constrained law enforcement agencies to combat organized crime groups. International crime is unlikely to decrease in the immediate future. If allowed to take a firm foothold, it will not only be detrimental to those Pacific island countries currently affected, but also to the entire Pacific. In response, the Pacific has adopted a regional approach as the only viable means to coordinate the efforts of national and regional law enforcement agencies to facilitate information-sharing and avoid duplication of efforts and resource wastage.

For Samoa, our Transnational Crimes Unit works closely with the law-enforcement agencies of our regional and international partners to help seize illicit drugs, arrest criminal fugitives, confiscate money-laundering proceeds and halt the misuse of social media, to name a few.

Global interconnectedness through fast, efficient transport links and information technology have brought many undoubted benefits to our region. However, even the Internet now also comes with a cautionary note of risks to peace and security through dangerous content and its use for criminal activities and for inflammatory purposes, problems that our small islands' jurisdictions and societies are currently not well equipped to handle. Samoa has taken steps to try to address the risks of the Internet, but we will need the support of our partners in order to find fully successful solutions.

It is therefore imperative that the United Nations and its Member States commit to tackling threats to international peace and security, especially through the Security Council. Our organization was founded upon values of collective security. We continue to see the United Nations, through the Security Council, as the key arbiter for the maintenance of international peace and security, stability and prosperity. That is important for our countries, which risk a reversal of the development gains they have made owing to external forces over which we have little or no control. To cement and build upon development goals already achieved, international peace and security must be maintained, and it is the responsibility of all Member States, particularly those in the Security Council, to work in close cooperation to ensure that happens.

A fortnight ago today, the Polynesian Leaders Group issued their Climate Declaration in Tahiti, French Polynesia. Our declaration accepted that climate change and its adverse impacts are a threat to territorial integrity, security and sovereignty, and in some cases to the very existence, of our islands because of the submersion of existing land and the regression of our maritime heritage.

My reference to climate change should surprise no one. In 2013, in their Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership, the Pacific Forum leaders called as a region for collective international responsibility and action to urgently reduce and phase down greenhouse gas pollution, including by Pacific island countries themselves. The Samoa Pathway again recognized that sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose significant risks to small island developing States and represent for many the gravest threat to their survival and viability, including through the loss of territory. We will therefore continue to advocate at every available opportunity and forum, the Security Council included, for the need for the United Nations community to be open-minded and not to reject out of hand the security implications of climate change.

While the Council has traditionally focused on inter-State conflict, it has not shied away from acting proactively to address the root causes of other non-conventional security issues, including HIV/AIDS, refugee issues, children in armed conflicts, poverty and development, and Ebola. The global response to those challenges is a powerful illustration of what is possible when States collaborate and cooperate to achieve common and critical goals.

Without putting too fine a point on it, that is why we are here as Pacific nations and as SIDS. It is to take up this rare opportunity to inform the Security Council that the challenges we face, including the impacts of climate change, present real threats to the peace and security of our island countries and peoples. As our modest contribution towards our collective security, we will continue to provide police officers to United Nations peacekeeping missions in order to honour a commitment we made in 2000.

Today's event has garnered so much positive spirit and goodwill that it would be truly most unfortunate if the debate were to be an end to itself and a once-only occurrence. I would therefore like to conclude by placing before you, Mr. President, and members of the Security Council, a special request on behalf of SIDS, namely, to consider including in the Council's future schedule a day dedicated to the consideration by the Council of the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States. That would be a tangible outcome of our open debate today.

The President: I now give the floor to the Prime Minister of Jamaica.

Mrs. Simpson Miller (Jamaica): It is an honour to address the Security Council on the occasion of this landmark open debate. I warmly congratulate New Zealand for its presidency of the Council for the month of July and commend you, Mr. President, for your visionary move to focus the attention of the Council on the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS).

Last September, at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa, the international community addressed many of the development challenges being experienced by this group of countries. Today, New Zealand's initiative to elevate these discussions to the Security Council takes full account of the natural linkages between the peace and security challenges faced by SIDS and the maintenance of international peace and security.

Jamaica has long advocated for a holistic approach to addressing matters of peace and security. In doing so, we recognize fully the intrinsic link between peace, security and development. The classic and relatively narrow concept of peace and security cannot be neatly applied to the multifaceted security threats that confront SIDS. Our debate here today is therefore timely, as we finalize the design of a sustainable development agenda for our people and planet for the next 15 years.

In thanking you for your kind invitation to participate, Sir, I would like to present a Caribbean SIDS perspective on some of the peace and security challenges that confront us. I will also share some thoughts on the urgent need for tangible development financing support for SIDS. This is critical for building resilience in the face of climate change and for overcoming the constraints imposed by small size, resource scarcity, geography and inappropriate global classification based mainly on per capita income.

Small island developing States such as Jamaica are notable for our small size and porous borders and for being prone to natural hazards and external shocks. We are mostly import-dependent and constrained by high debt burdens. We are also overly dependent on external markets, technology transfer, international capital flows and foreign expertise. These factors reduce our ability to mount effective national responses to domestic, regional and global challenges to peace and security.

In Jamaica and the wider Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region, transnational organized crime represents the gravest threats to our peace and security. Extensive open coastlines facilitate various forms of illicit trafficking in drugs, arms, ammunition and people, particularly women and children. In our societies, the well-known guns-for-drug trade remains a principal strategy of the international criminal network. Money-laundering activities also enable transnational criminal activity to thrive in our region. It is further cause for alarm that in 2013, 70 per cent of all homicides committed in the Caribbean subregion featured the use of a firearm. It is well known that we do not manufacture weapons or drive the demand for drugs, yet they find their way to our shores.

It must be emphasized that these activities account for the high levels of gun-related crime that our countries are experiencing. They combine to undermine law and order and impede economic growth and social development. Our location makes us a prime transit route for international narcotraffickers. If that were not the case, the overall level of crime in the Caribbean would be similar to what obtains in low-crime countries. This fact is supported by the United Nations Development Programme's Caribbean Human Development Report.

The question arises as to what our response has been in the face of these challenges. I can assure the Council that we take these threats to our security very seriously. We have given primary focus to safety and security within our national development plan. We have targeted our efforts at degrading the capabilities of organized criminal gangs and have directed resources at addressing the shameful crime of human trafficking, including the appointment of a rapporteur on trafficking in persons. We have also invested heavily in technology, equipment and training for our security forces within the constraints of our limited resources. However, I must emphasize that our domestic policy responses to those threats to our peace and security, though significant and coordinated across the Government, are insufficient. We therefore continue to expand our international cooperation in improving our national security infrastructure in order to deal with transnational organized crime. We have made important gains in enhancing our security environment, with notable reductions in some categories of crime.

In spite of those efforts, the illegal flow of small arms and ammunition into our local communities continues to pose a significant challenge to law and order. At the regional level, we have worked with other CARICOM Governments to establish a regional security framework. At that framework's centre is CARICOM's implementation agency for crime and security impacts. At the United Nations, Jamaica has been a consistent voice in the call for multilateral action to address the issue of the illicit trade in guns under the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We welcome the Council's continued consideration of the issue of small arms, including its recent open debate (see S/PV.7447) and adoption of resolution 2220 (2015) on the matter. In partnership with our CARICOM sister States, Jamaica played an instrumental role in securing the landmark Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We welcome the convening of the first Conference of States Parties to the ATT, to be held next month in Mexico City, and look forward to the Treaty's full and effective implementation.

We also look forward to participating in next year's special session of the General Assembly on the global drug problem. Small countries like ours must continue to play a role in formulating strategies aimed at more effectively countering the global trade in illicit drugs. The success of many SIDS in stemming the drug trade has been nothing short of remarkable given the constraints on our resources. While we have achieved some promising results in tackling those threats, more must be done. However, a limited financial base, weak technical capacity and inadequate concrete global support continue to hamper our efforts. Stronger global partnerships and more efficient forms of cooperation are needed to help SIDS in their fight against the scourge of transnational organized crime.

I would like to turn briefly to two areas in which we have sought to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. They are counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Without question, Jamaica and other CARICOM member States remain committed to meeting our international obligations, particularly in relation to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). In 2009, CARICOM instituted a region-wide initiative aimed at fully implementing resolution 1540 (2004). Devised and constituted within the Caribbean community, the initiative has enabled CARICOM member States to effectively take on our responsibilities under the resolution. We are grateful for the support of our international partners, including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Norway and Finland. That support has helped to strengthen our national capacities to address the threats posed by the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

The reality is that where there is both sensitivity to the special requirements of our region and support enabling us to act effectively, we are better able to contribute to global action in the maintenance of international peace and security. We are particularly proud of our contribution in the area of peacekeeping. For more than two decades, Jamaica has been making modest but impactful contributions to United Nations peacekeeping activities through its provision of police officers to missions in Namibia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Bosnia. Currently, just under 20 officers from our police force are serving in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, in the Sudan.

There are also emerging economic and social issues that have direct and indirect effects on the peace and security agenda. Our limited natural and human resource bases, together with persistent and significant external trade imbalances, have also constrained economic growth in the region. That is compounded by unsustainable public debt levels that in the Caribbean average 70.5 per cent and are made worse by large current-account and fiscal deficits. In addition, our middle-income designation limits our ability to access critical development financing. That jeopardizes our ability to finance our sustainable development objectives from domestic public resources. I would like to draw the Council's attention to the proposal by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for a debt-relief strategy for countries like Jamaica and other middle-income SIDS. Comprehensive debt relief for Caribbean States that would gradually write off 100 per cent of our multilateral debt stock is timely. In our view, the proposal is worthy of serious consideration and support from the international community.

For small island developing States, climate change is one of the greatest challenges to our development aspirations, and it threatens our very survival. Most of us have been feeling the present wave of heat in the Caribbean and certainly elsewhere. For those reasons, robust policy action on climate change is vital to our national, regional and global welfare. The ecosystems of some Caribbean SIDS are already experiencing negative effects of climate change and are approaching the limits of their adaptive capacities. The development of sensible climate-change policy regimes is therefore an urgent priority. It is for that reason, and others, that Jamaica strongly supports the adoption of a legally binding text at the conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Paris later this year. We are in favour of a protocol that should be applicable to all, with measurable mitigation efforts and equal treatment for mitigation and adaptation measures.

For us, the link between climate change and sustainable energy is clear. That is why we are actively pursuing renewable energy investments in solar and wind power, as well as promoting energy conservation. Our strategy is designed to make us independent of our over-reliance on unsustainable fossil-fuel energy sources. That should reduce our trade imbalance, improve our competitiveness and increase economic growth. We must move forward in order to address both our shared and individual security challenges. As we do so, I ask that full account be taken of the fact that a one-size-fits-all approach cannot provide workable and sustainable solutions.

Based on the experiences of Jamaica and the Caribbean region, we see the benefits of a regional approach complemented by support from the global community to assist in mitigating risks to our peace and security situation. Given the great extent to which peace, security and development concerns are interconnected, it is essential that the entire United Nations system work actively to overcome the special challenges facing small developing States. We are prepared to work with our partners to devise practical, multifaceted solutions to those complex security challenges. That, we believe, offers the best chance for success in achieving lasting peace and security for our peoples. I am convinced that, ultimately, a more secure, just and prosperous world is the future that we all want for ourselves and for succeeding generations.

The President: I thank Mrs. Simpson Miller for her briefing.

I now give the floor to the Minister of Finance of Seychelles.

Mr. Adam (Seychelles): On behalf of President James Michel and the people of Seychelles, I would like to express our appreciation to you, Mr. President, the Foreign Minister of New Zealand, for having provided this platform to discuss the security challenges of small island developing States (SIDS). We thank all members for their support.

I would also like to convey our appreciation to the United Nations, through the Secretary-General, for the recognition of the specificities of SIDS, as outlined in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway), adopted in 2014, and for situating today's event as a continuation of efforts to improve the framework available to build the resilience of small island developing States.

The security challenges of SIDS are situated in the context of our unique geographic character. Surrounded by oceans, we are our planet's "blue guardians". But the governance of the world's oceanic spaces is far removed from the security expectations that the world has regarding its terrestrial spaces. Lawlessness and impunity are more often than not the norm on the high seas. International criminality is often tolerated, and prosecutions of international crimes at sea remain uneven. Most of the world's illegal traffic is conducted at sea, whether it be in people, drugs or weapons. Illegal fishing continues to undermine both national and international regulation. Respect for this shared space is often extended only to the degree that economic interests are not put into question. Meanwhile, the threat of climate change undermines the productivity of traditional marine resources and limits opportunities for growth. Let us be clear: climate change is the foremost security threat for SIDS, and, arguably, for the world as a whole.

For SIDS, our smallness and our isolation are structural elements of our vulnerability. The increasing threats around our oceans and the relative lack of governance enhance this vulnerability.

With 75 per cent of our planet made up by oceans, the weak global governance of our oceanic spaces undermines our global security. In fact, we are all vulnerable. Seychelles, like many SIDS, has not accepted, however, to simply be an observer to these processes. We are embracing the opportunity of being large oceanic nations, looking at our ocean as an opportunity more than as a threat. We are aiming to better manage our oceans, setting an example of oceanic good governance. In the context of Seychelles, our exclusive economic zone (EEZ) extends to 1.3 million square kilometres, while we have also agreed a shared extended continental shelf with our neighbour Mauritius, which extends to an additional 395,000 square kilometres.

Earlier this year, we created the blue economy department, which is part of my portfolio as the Minister of Finance. We are staking our economic future on better harnessing the development potential of our ocean. To achieve this, we must recognize that moving towards sustainable development goals, as we hope we will agree in September, requires breaking the existing moulds of economic development and forging new economic opportunities from previously unsustainable practices. In relation to African and Indian Ocean island States, that is what the blue economy promises.

In practical terms, we are implementing the blue economy through the development of a marine spatial plan, whereby we define the economic and conservation activities to be developed throughout our EEZ. This includes the security considerations that will be required. We are also committing 30 per cent of our exclusive economic zone as protected areas. We are developing enhanced fisheries- management tools to implement appropriate stock management, and we are in discussion with international financial institutions to raise a "blue bond" to help provide affordable financing for such initiatives.

These initiatives are also situated within a regional move to bolster the blue economy, notably through the African Union's blue economy commitments under Agenda 2063, as well as the African Union's Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy. The Indian Ocean Commission and the Indian Ocean Rim Association are also developing blue-economy approaches that build sustainable economic opportunity through research, trade, renewable energy, shared security and maritime infrastructure.

The phenomenon of piracy in the Indian Ocean has underlined the challenges of security in our region, but also those of implementing the rule of law at sea. At the start of the problem, many naval ships that were operating in the Indian Ocean were frustrated by the fact that while they could interdict pirate vessels at sea, the lack of prosecution afterwards meant that pirates had to be released, allowing them to regroup and attack shipping on future occasions.

Despite our capacity constraints, Seychelles took a lead role in piracy prosecutions, because we recognize that the rule of law is the first step towards economic stability and growth. As long as we allow our oceans to be ruled by lawlessness, we will not be able to properly harness their development potential.

Through our concerted effort with international partners such as the European Union and NATO, we have effectively broken the piracy business model that was operating out of Somalia by ensuring that prosecutions take place systematically. But we cannot afford complacency. While piracy is on the wane, the conditions that led to piracy are still in place. We are seeing increased activities relating to drug trafficking and associated criminal activities.

This leads me to also mention another major security concern for many SIDS, which is the influx of trafficked substances that create domestic demand for narcotics. Our small societies are often inordinately affected by the impact of addiction among young people and the consequences in terms of reduced productivity and increased criminality. We are actively engaged in twin strategies of reducing local demand while also aggressively targeting shipments into the country. But these are global problems, and we have to enhance our regional and international methodologies for combating them.

As we work to address these issues, we must also maintain vigilance in relation to potential terrorist threats. Al-Shabaab in Somalia has profited from the lack of maritime capacity in our region and has used the sea lanes to bolster its position in certain parts of Somalia while also creating profitable trades in illicit goods. Our region is very reliant as well on tourism, and we must work in concert to ensure that we protect our livelihoods, while also ensuring that the people of Somalia do not have to live in the fear that comes with Al-Shabaab.

All of these security challenges require enhanced regional coordination. Seychelles has been pleased to host a Regional Information Fusion and Law Enforcement Centre, which has helped build cases for prosecution in Seychelles and across our region based on crimes committed at sea. We thank members of the Security Council that have supported this work.

We must continue to build this regional capacity, and we look forward to the implementation of the regional Maritime Security Programme, funded by the European Union, which will reinforce and build capacity across the East African and Indian Ocean region. Seychelles will also continue to actively promote regional partnerships as the current Chair of the African Union's East African Standby Force, while we also look forward to our forthcoming chairmanship of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, where we will share our experiences with a view to implementing practical solutions to counter impunity and lawlessness.

At the heart of improved maritime security for small island developing States is enhanced maritime domain awareness. We depend on partnerships to build this capacity, and one of the messages I would like to emphasize today is to call on all members of the Security Council to reinforce the building of this capacity in small island developing States. To do so not only empowers better management of our resources; it also bolsters our position as sentinels of the sea.

Before concluding, let me also take a moment to remind all our partners that effectively tackling criminality and terrorism at sea also involves improved financial governance — in terms of the better application of anti-money-laundering best practices, as well as enhanced tax transparency and the exchange of information. By targeting the business model that underpins criminal and terrorist activities, we can better undermine those operations. Seychelles has made a strong commitment towards those best practices through strong anti-money-laundering legislation, and we are complementing that through our commitment to be an early adopter in terms of the exchange of information for tax purposes.

In conclusion, it is essential that we contextualize the debate on security issues on small island developing States in relation to climate change. Climate change is an ever present threat. The increases in global temperatures are currently set to be well above two degrees, which will literally wipe out the islands of many of our nations. It will wipe out homes and livelihoods, and I would like us today to affirm that every island matters.

We cannot go to the Paris Negotiations on Climate Change later this year with the idea that some islands — that some homes — can be sacrificed at the altar of political expediency and unsustainable growth. We thank members of the Security Council for ensuring that the security aspect of climate change is not ignored. As with all security threats, the best strategy is to pre-empt the threat. We have the opportunity to set a standard for global governance and for enhanced global security in Paris. Let us ensure that we take it.

Better governance of our oceans through the blue economy can already help us ensure that we can build climate-resilient, inclusive growth, and the fast track to better maritime security is the fast track to establishing our blue economy.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand.

I would like to start by thanking our distinguished briefers for their informative contributions and the heads of Government and Ministers, who have come to New York to participate in this debate. Of the 44 small island developing States (SIDS), only six have served on the Security Council. We called for this debate in order to give the Council an opportunity that it rarely has to hear what security looks like to small island developing States, and to give small island States, which constitute nearly a fifth of the United Nations membership, a chance to have their voices heard in the Council.

New Zealand is a Pacific country with a significant stake in the peace and security of the small island developing States in our region. By their very size, isolation and nature, SIDS often find themselves walking a thin line between success and failure. Let us look at some key characteristics. SIDS are small: three quarters of them have a population of less than one million. The majority in our region have populations below a half a million. They are islands with exclusive economic zones significantly larger than their land masses and are often without the capacity to conduct surveillance of their zones — let alone defend them. They are developing: most receive some level of development assistance to balance the books. Their size and capacity limitations can make them a target for transnational criminal networks, including those involved in piracy or the smuggling of drugs, arms and people.

Today I am sure we will hear directly from representatives about the impact of climate change — as we have just now heard from our briefers — and of natural disasters on small island developing States. The recent cyclone in Vanuatu caused $360 million worth of damage — approximately 45 per cent of Vanuatu's gross domestic product (GDP), and Hurricane Sandy cost $315 million in damage across the Caribbean, but the important point here is not just the impact of climate change or natural disasters themselves. Rather, it is their impact on countries that are already vulnerable. Most SIDS simply do not have the economic diversity or the resources to handle major shocks. Being a small island developing State is to have an inbuilt force multiplier whenever a natural disaster or man-made conflict strikes, and such security and development challenges can have regional consequences.

New Zealand views its own peace and security as being directly affected by the prosperity and stability of the SIDS in our region, the Pacific. Therefore, the important strategic question for the Council and for the wider United Nations community is, in my view: how do we take meaningful steps to make SIDS less vulnerable in the face of threats to their security from natural disasters and man-made challenges. I want to discuss just two areas in which we have been working with partners in our region to increase resilience.

Firstly, we can build the resilience of SIDS by helping them to derive full benefit from the sustainable use of their often limited resource base. The Pacific's largest asset is the only truly healthy tuna fishery in the world, which should be used to make its owners more economically sustainable than they are today. Last year, the value of the tuna caught in the exclusive economic zones of the Pacific countries was $3.4 billion — double the development assistance to the region from all sources. An additional approximately $400 million of tuna is estimated to have been taken from the zone illegally or through under-reporting. They — the Pacific owners — receive approximately 14 per cent of the market value of the resource. Many other players clip the ticket along the way.

My point is simple: SIDS need the international community to cooperate to ensure that they receive a fair return from their economic assets, and we need a concerted international effort to stamp out illegal fishing and underreporting practices: They amount to literally stealing from some of the poorest people on the planet. For the SIDS in our region the practical impact of achieving those goals would be — quite simply — transformational for their prosperity and security.

My second point relates to an equally transformational change that can be made on the other side of the economic ledger: dealing with the energy insecurity caused by dependence on hugely expensive fossil fuels. The Pacific region is, in common with most of the SIDS, heavily dependent on diesel fuel for electricity generation, yet a liter or gallon of diesel in the Pacific costs more than double what one would pay for it here in New York. Up to one third of the total import bill of SIDS is the cost of oil for electricity — on average 10 percent of their GDPs. That is why my country has been at the forefront of an attempt to quickly move the small island States in the Pacific from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

I can report that we are making good progress. When one is small, one can make things happen quickly. All three atolls in the Tokelau Islands — previously wholly dependent upon fossil fuels for electricity — are now effectively 100 per cent renewable through the installation of solar generation. All five islands in the Northern Cook Islands have been, as of this year, moved from 100 per cent dependency on fossil fuels to 100 per cent renewable. Most of the Southern Cook Islands will follow in the next year. By the end of this year, all of the islands in Tuvalu, except Funifuti, will be 100 per cent renewable, and, in more populated parts of the region, significant progress has been made in substituting renewables — mostly solar — for diesel-generated power in Tonga, Samoa, and the Cook Islands capital of Rarotonga.

More recently, we have become involved in transporting some of the renewable energy skills acquired in our region to some of the States in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean. These are not only life-changing developments in their own right. They also make a huge contribution to making small island developing States more resilient and less vulnerable to economic shocks and serious acts of nature.

In conclusion, I want to revert to a point I made earlier. Being small has its disadvantages, but it has one huge advantage: one can make things happen quickly. That is the approach we need to take in ensuring that small island developing States become better equipped to deal with the challenges to their security today.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the other members of the Council.

Ms. Rodríguez Gómez (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We strongly welcome the presence of more than 20 Heads of State and Government and Ministers taking part in today's important debate. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is extremely grateful for the initiative taken by New Zealand to convene this open debate. We consider it to be a valuable opportunity to analyse from all angles the challenges faced by small island developing States.

We extend our greetings and gratitude to the Secretary-General of this important Organization, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

There are 37 United Nations Member States that qualify as small island developing States — in other words, one-fifth of the overall membership, including 16 fraternal Caribbean States. Venezuela is also a Caribbean country and is therefore extremely aware of the specific vulnerabilities and asymmetries facing those States, in particular those that limit sustainable development. Small island developing States are mainly characterized by small populations and extensive maritime borders, which make them vulnerable to external factors, natural disasters, climate change, global economic shifts, transnational organized crime and foreign exploitation of their natural resources. Small island developing States suffer the full force of the ravages of the capitalist model.

The explosion of neoliberal globalization in the 1980s, including the expansion of free-trade zones, the deregulation of financial markets and the privatization of State enterprises, coupled with the giddying pace of technology development in the areas of transportation and telecommunications, exacerbated the vulnerability of small island developing States most of which, we must recall, were already historically victims of the effects of late-stage colonialism, which reached the Caribbean region with repercussions of various kinds that continue to impact them all today.

The greatest external threat to the security of those States arises not from an individual State, but rather from the pressures of the new form of colonialism represented by the dictatorship of international financial capital. Moreover, those islands feel abandoned by developed countries and relevant multilateral institutions such as the World Trade Organization, and even non-governmental organizations that determine the rules and options available to those countries. In addition to all this, but no less important, is the threat of climate change. Despite being the least responsible for the destruction of the environment, the small island developing States are among the most threatened and the immediate victims of a predatory environmental model.

However, the answer to the challenges and threats faced by that group of States cannot be found by way of predominantly police and military approaches. The challenges and threats in the field of sustainable development and climate change, as well as those arising from transnational organized crime and international piracy, should be addressed by the international community through genuine solidarity and cooperation, mainly on the part of developed countries, which is definitely an unresolved contradiction in the framework of the very model of capitalism. It is worth noting that the Caribbean region is a peaceful territory that is free of weapons of mass destruction.

Despite its limitations, that group of States has contributed significantly to the maintenance of international peace and security and fulfilled its obligations under international law, including those deriving from the Council's resolutions. They are neither arms manufacturing States nor bellicose expansionists intent on conquering territory and oppressing populations. Those countries must continue to work together to establish collective bargaining mechanisms on the basis of their large representation in regional and international organizations, and their voices should be heard and taken into account on the basis of the sovereign equality of States, regardless of their size or population. It is important to amplify the voices of those countries and expand cooperation mechanisms in order to articulate a broad multilateralism and build a multicentric and multipolar world that will uphold and prioritize the leadership of States. South-South cooperation also plays a key role in capacity-building for small island developing States in order to address the multifaceted challenges they face.

I could speak at length about the extraordinary mechanism for solidarity and unity represented by Petrocaribe. Venezuela has been consolidating a cooperation mechanism that goes beyond mere energy security or energy legislation by fostering conditions for millions of people to overcome poverty. It is based on the premises of fair trade, complementary efforts, social justice, solidarity and the common desire to advance. That mechanism for integration and unity serves as a model for the region and a key instrument in promoting the right to development of the member countries. I pay particular tribute to Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller of Jamaica because we recognize the extraordinary efforts made by Jamaica to strengthen that mechanism of unity.

President Hugo Chávez Frías was strongly committed to the peoples of the Caribbean and helped to convert the region from a premium market for energy transnationals into a region that underpins the economic, social and cultural development of our sister Caribbean countries and their peoples. Of the 18 States members of Petrocaribe, 15 are small island developing States. Despite imperialist attempts to delegitimate that humanist organization, which is the basis of the most deeply cherished values of our peoples, Petrocaribe, as stated by President Nicolás Maduro Moros, has proven that it works and that we are people who can work in friendship, unity and solidarity.

Venezuela also contributes to human development in the Caribbean region through international health-care programmes such as Misión Milagro, whereby more than 4 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean have had their sight restored. To date, we have implemented, through Petrocaribe, 488 social projects focused on the health, housing and education of millions of men, women and children.

Venezuela is pleased to continue to support the small island developing States, including through, among other mechanisms and measures, the establishment of genuine and lasting partnerships that we hope will effectively contribute to strengthening States' sovereignty and the policies available to them in facing their challenges in the fields of sustainable development and in international peace and security.

Finally, allow me to convey the following message from the Constitutional President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, President Nicolás Maduro Moros, a scion of Hugo Chávez Frías:

> "The Venezuelan people, the Bolivarian Government and the Venezuelan nation as a whole are peace-loving people who work daily to fulfil their vocation of peace. We pride ourselves on that heritage and lay claim to it. We practice cooperation in solidarity and will champion formulas for integration that seek common solutions to the difficulties and problems of the needy, the dispossessed and those that have been traditionally excluded and marginalized. We believe in direct dialogue and ongoing communication. We are firmly wedded to international law, as we recognize the validity of norms and standards to provide for peaceful international coexistence, in conjunction with the principle of maintaining and developing friendly and good-neighbourly relations.
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> "We are a country that fought for and won our independence. We were born in a territory inherited from those who fought for our liberty and who emerged victorious from the shackles of colonial and imperial slavery. Today, we can say that we have a free, sovereign homeland and that we practice a diplomacy that exalts the principles of Bolivarianism and peace. We have overcome the rough roads of neoliberalism, and thanks to President Hugo Chavez, we have raised our country's flag and broken with the neoliberal model that oppressed our people and those of Latin America and the Caribbean.
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> "Despite the grave dangers threatening the progressive Governments of the region, which consolidate national models autonomous from imperialist centres and which construct their own realities and national and regional identities, we have no doubt that the peoples, as well as those of the small island developing States of our beloved Caribbean, will continue to vanquish the imperialist pretensions seeking to again impose their model of predatory dependence on our natural resources. The people of Venezuela are more committed than ever to the principles and purposes of the Organization, to the great challenges in the consolidation of a more secure and peaceful world.
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> "Let us unite efforts to construct a multipolar and multicentric world, firmly believing in the sovereign equality of States, in non-intervention in the internal affairs of countries and in the independence of nations. Likewise, with the heritage of union left us by our great Liberator, Simón Bolívar, father of America, and with the bicentenary this very year of the Letter from Jamaica, we consider ourselves part of the consolidated unity of our brothers of the Caribbean.
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> "When the peoples have decided to be free, sovereign and independent, there is no force, however powerful, that can stop them."

Mr. Augusto (Angola): First of all, we thank His Excellency Mr. Murray McCully, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, for presiding over this open debate. We welcome and congratulate the New Zealand presidency of the Security Council for convening this timely debate on the security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS) and for putting such an important issue at the centre of the international community's attention. We also thank the Secretary-General and the high dignitaries from Samoa, Jamaica and the Seychelles for their insightful briefings.

Only recently due attention started being paid to the dangers facing millions of people inhabiting this group of nations, whose vulnerabilities have become more dramatic in recent years with the visible consequences of climate change and the exponential growth of international criminality affecting them. Small island developing States are diverse in essence, geographically dispersed and climatically differentiated, and they have far-reaching variations in their social, political, cultural and ethnic matrix. However, they all share serious environmental threats, aggravated by external economic impacts, and are affected more frequently and more intensely by natural disasters. Eventual sea-level rise is the most alarming prospect. Against such a bleak background, the international community and SIDSs are ever more aware of the need to reverse prevailing policies.

Countering the impact of climate change through better environmental practices and achieving sustainable economic and social development are the cornerstone of policies to address huge challenges threatening the livelihoods of those islands' populations. Vulnerabilities endogenous to those States, such as limited territorial and economic scales, high demographic growth and the slow pace of economic growth and diversification, and high levels of unemployment and environmental degradations are factors conducive to the expansion of criminal and other illegal activities that undermine the development of licit economic life, destroy social cohesion and threaten peace and security.

Transnational criminal networks have increasingly targeted these small island States. Their geographic isolation and weak security structures have attracted organized criminal networks, making them easy prey for all kinds of trafficking in drugs, weapons and humans, for piracy and for the illicit exploitation of natural resources, such as illegal fishing. The proceeds of those practices are often used to fund terrorism and are becoming an issue of international peace and security.

The lack of economic opportunities in many SIDS, the challenges of climate change and transnational crime are serious issues to be tackled. Lasting solutions to the problems afflicting this group of countries are possible only with international assistance. Highly dependent on coastal and maritime activities, SIDS face the risk of total disruption of their economic activity in the foreseeable future, due to floods affecting more intensely the coastal areas and cities, the economic infrastructures such as harbours, ports, fishing sites, fishery industries, processing plants and the very important touristic industry.

Overfishing has reached alarming proportions, putting at risk the very survival of many maritime species. That has an extreme negative impact on the maritime ecosystems and the economic basis that sustain the SIDS.

The loss of territory caused by sea-level rise poses another significant threat to small island developing States and to their sustainable development. Some of them face real existential threats. The urgent need arises to develop a dual-track strategy in dealing with those challenges: to provide specific assistance in areas related to climate change and disaster-risk reduction, and to develop approaches to sustainable development best suited to their realities, constraints and challenges. Since sea and coastal activities are the drivers of SIDS economic life, in order to maximize their development potential, the approach should be based on sustained economic growth that is environmentally concerned and socially inclusive, and on productive investment in strong, modern infrastructure, based upon comparative advantages provided by maritime economic activities.

Human activity is exacerbating problems by accelerating the pace of climate change and its consequences. Desertification, loss of biodiversity and food insecurity, among other problems, have reached levels that must be urgently reversed. In connection with the greenhouse effect and its impact on climate change, the need arises to develop renewable sources of energy with a view to protecting the environment and the future of SIDS. Some of them are leading the way in switching to renewable sources of energy. The international community is expected to provide much-needed assistance in technology transfers and financial resources to help them continue on that path and to guarantee a safer and more prosperous future.

The international community has begun to show commitment on the issue. The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in 2014, renewed the political commitment to address the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS by focusing on practical actions, identifying and addressing new and emerging challenges and opportunities for sustainable development of SIDS, particularly through the strengthening of partnerships. The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway, adopted at that Conference, emphasized inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and the management of natural resource as the basis for economic and social development and the programme of action for further sustainable development of those States.

It is our hope that the new international climate change agreement, currently being negotiated for adoption at the Paris Conference by the end of 2015, will contribute to relieving some of the economic burden of the SIDS by reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and the impact of climate change.

Mr. Riveros Marín (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank New Zealand for this initiative to discuss issues affecting the promotion of international peace and security.

The vulnerabilities of small island developing States (SIDS) arise from their inability to address emerging challenges and situations with global implications that can jeopardize the stability and the livelihood of these countries and regional and international peace and security. Cooperation for development is crucial to dealing with these threats. Chile has made a commitment to the SIDS and has therefore contributed, along with the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to capacity-sharing and the training of human capital through South-South cooperation.

With all the CARICOM countries, Chile is implementing programmes of cooperation in teaching Spanish, international relations, disaster prevention and support for plant and animal health systems. This always involves a South-South approach; in other words, experience is shared in a horizontal relationship, particularly in order to create capacity for the design and implementation of public policies.

I should like to highlight two specific programmes. We are implementing one in the Dominican Republic, entitled "Improving youth employability", jointly with the German agency for international cooperation. The goal is to improve access to microcredit and to encourage young people's entrepreneurship in association with local Governments. The goal of the second, more inclusive programme seeks to strengthen the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency, whereby two Chilean institutions — the Chilean Agency for Food Quality and Safety and the Agriculture and Livestock Service — have been selected by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to provide cooperation to the Caribbean.

These are two specific examples of cooperation that are part of a much broader programme almost always undertaken on a triangular basis. Through this approach, Chile can share its experience in the design and implementation of public policies that are also carefully evaluated practices producing positive results. We believe that this is the best way for the international community to support SIDS in overcoming their vulnerabilities. But there are also global activities leading in that direction.

We are all aware of the threat posed by climate change and of the urgent need to reach a comprehensive and efficient agreement at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris. That is particularly important for small island countries, which are particularly exposed to the impacts of climate change and cycles of natural disasters. Attention must be paid to their impact on cultures and forms of life and to the possible creation of such destabilizing phenomena as forced displacement.

The exploitation and illegal trafficking of natural resources, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, create a climate of instability by preventing access to basic livelihoods. Global governance must incorporate ways of protecting these vulnerabilities of SIDS. These issues are the focus of the Council's special attention for the first time today, and we therefore congratulate New Zealand for this initiative. They are regularly considered in various forums, but they cannot be ignored by the Council.

Chile is willing to contribute in this area. In early October, we will host the second Our Ocean conference, an initiative aimed at adopting voluntary commitments on the three serious threats to our ocean. Illegal fishing is one of the principle factors affecting any project or planning of sustainable fishing; marine pollution from plastic products has become a global problem; and the acidification of the ocean and its relation to climate change make it urgent for us to adopt collective action. Inclusive development in our societies can play a fundamental role in ensuring the political stability, democratic governance, development and territorial integrity in our States, which are factors that effectively prevent conflict.

We welcome this opportunity to discuss these issues in the Security Council and to emphasize, from an eminently political perspective, the importance for the sustainability of the planet of achieving an agreement at the COP 21 in Paris. At the Climate Summit held in New York in September 2014, President Michelle Bachelet noted that climate change exacerbates inequalities and multiplies threats to global peace and security. We must therefore tackle this problem before its consequence become irreversible.

Chile trusts that this open debate will help to foster realism and awareness within groups of countries and regions. Collective inclusive action is essential in order to promote basically preventive measures. We therefore welcome the concerns raised today in the Council concerning SIDS, which confirm the relevance of South-South cooperation that we are undertaking with the CARICOM countries.

Mr. Gracia Aldaz (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I congratulate the New Zealand presidency for bringing before the Security Council the topic of the security challenges facing of small island developing States

(SIDS). As stated in the final document of the United Nations Conference On Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway, SIDS represent a special case with respect to sustainable development because of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. Spain is well aware of this, which is why I wanted to participate personally in this debate. In my own contribution, I shall try to address the security challenges that these countries face and to provide a Spanish view on the matter.

The year 2015 is key for international development agenda. The lengthy process of debates that are leading to the definition of the post-2015 agenda as a universal and transformative agenda has led the international community to focus its consideration on aspects that go beyond the traditional sectors of development. At the heart of this reflection is the importance of understanding how, in today's world, the threats to development and peace are interconnected.

The consequences of climate change, particularly sea-level rise, represent a significant obstacle to SIDS in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. But also they pose a serious threat to their own survival and viability and the security of their populations. Similarly, and as recently revealed by the dramatic impact of Cyclone Pam on Vanuatu and other countries in the region, the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events has had serious consequences for safety.

It is quite legitimate for small countries, whose responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions has been minimal, to call upon the international community to take responsibility for tackling climate change. We hope that at the coming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to take place in Paris in December of this year, we will be able to reach a comprehensive, global and legally binding agreement that is ambitious in terms of emissions-reduction, duly takes into account the adaptation needs of the most vulnerable countries, and upholds the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities commensurate with the respective capacities of nations, bearing in mind the different national circumstances.

The result of Spain's commitment in that regard was the convening on 30 June, together with the Permanent Mission of Malaysia, of an Arria Formula informal meeting of the Security Council to analyze the role of climate change as a threat multiplier affecting international peace and security. The United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, six ministers, a large number of Permanent Representatives and a robust showing of civil society representatives participated in that meeting. That gave us the space to take stock of the extent to which the international community acknowledges that the growing consequences of climate change have clear implications on international security and especially on the SIDS. During the meeting, there were multiple calls for an updated version of the 2009 Secretary-General's report entitled "Climate change and its possible security implications" (A/64/350) to be made prepared. That is something that we support once again today.

The challenges faced by SIDS are a priority for Spain's cooperation policy, as evidenced by the active participation of our Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which took place last year in Samoa. For that reason, Spain has signed memorandums of understanding with 13 SIDS countries to support cooperation projects funded by Spain and the United Nations Development Programme Fund, aimed at attaining the sustainable development goals and by the Fund for Humanitarian Aid of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development.

Through that support Spain addresses the specific needs and priorities of each country in areas such as combating climate change, strengthening response-capacity to natural disasters, strengthening capacities in the health sector and ensuring adequate water supply. Commensurate with all of this, Spain has contributed €1 million in conncection with the memorandum sponsored by Italy, together with other countries, which was set up to finance priority actions for SIDS in the area of boosting their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Insecurity, piracy, drug trafficking, violence and transnational organized crime also pose a serious threat to SIDS, putting at risk their security, hampering the normal day-to-day functioning of their public institutions, undermining respect for human rights, damaging economic sectors that are crucial to growth, and negatively impacting their development perspectives.

It is essential therefore to dovetail the efforts of the international community and the United Nations — particularly the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna — to help those countries to reduce their levels of criminality and their exposure to illicit trafficking. Aware of that need, Spain has been supporting cooperation projects in the Caribbean to prevent violence and youth marginalization. In a similar vein, we participated in the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative and have participated in the group of donors for security issues. Spain, with its thousands of kilometres of coastline and a geographical position that often makes us a gateway to Europe for illicit traffickers, is more than willing to make available its experience in the area of monitoring its national waters and airspace to the SIDS.

We are aware that the oceans and the seas, as well as their marine and coastal resources, are a core element of the identity and of the economy of SIDS, and we are therefore aware of the importance of preserving that heritage. For Spain the fight against illegal, unreported and undocumented fishing is a priority, whose adverse impact on the conservation and management of fishery resources is, in our view, unacceptable. Spain has an unwavering commitment to the sustainability of fisheries resources, which is reflected in the way we manage our own national fishing fleet, which is held to the highest standards of monitoring and compliance in the world. In a similar vein, I am delighted to announce that next October Spain will host a meeting in the city of Vigo celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, an event whose goal is to foster a debate on the need to adopt a future strategy that would guarantee the sustainability of fisheries.

Our election campaign for the Security Council was based on dialogue, partnership and commitment. To implement those principles we have made transparency and accountability our standards, and they have guided our actions within the Council since becoming an elected member. In order to live up to both of those principles we held numerous meetings with SIDS throughout our election campaign, in which we were able to hear clearly what their priorities and concerns were. And we are very aware today, more than ever, that it is vital that the international community robustly support these States in order to help them to effectively overcome the aforementioned vulnerabilities. For that reason, I want to conclude my statement by reiterating Spain's implacable commitment to standing with the SIDS in their fight to achieve sustainable development in all three of its dimensions: peace, security and development.

Mr. Mangaral (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I thank the presidency of New Zealand for having convened this meeting on the challenges to threats and security facing small island developing States (SIDS). I also welcome all of the distinguished personalities and ministers present here today. I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Prime Minister of Samoa, the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the Minister of Finance of Seychelles for their statements.

The United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, recognized the existence of a group called the "Small Island Developing States" (SIDS). That recognition was formalized by the Programme of Action to assist them, which was adopted at the Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994 in Barbados. The Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action listed a number of priority fields.

If small island developing States share a great many specificities with other States, it has been recognized, however, that they also face challenges that are specific to them. They suffer from excessive vulnerability in terms of their environmental systems, economic and social factors and humanitarian disasters related to climate change. Threats to peace and security are not related solely to armed conflict, but can also stem from nature herself as a result of humankind's activities and their impact on the environment. Global warming of the oceans has led to the melting of glaciers and to the rise in sea levels, which has threatened the future of many islands around the world. That constitutes a real threat to international security and requires urgent measures and the firm commitment of mankind to find a rapid, global solution to that problem.

The impact of Cyclone Pam, which struck the coastlines of Vanuatu and took place during the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan last March, claimed many lives and caused great material damage. It was, of course, a strong signal sent to us by nature herself. We must learn to listen to nature so as to better understand the new types of challenges to international peace and security. To that end, the Security Council should think deeply about its role and its place in tackling those new challenges to international peace and security.

Small island developing States also face a great many other challenges relating to access to international markets for their products, energy requirements, access to new technologies, and the development of tourism. That is also compounded by human trafficking, transnational organized crime, cyber crime and, of course, piracy, which continue to undermine the development efforts of many countries, including SIDS. To better assist small island developing States in facing up to the aforementioned challenges, it is important to focus on the establishment of early warning systems at the national, regional and international levels, as well as on the strengthening of international cooperation and international strategic partnerships.

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which was held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, was an opportunity for the international community to renew its commitment to assist the development of those countries during the upcoming decade and to determine the path to be followed. This path needs to be reflected in the post-2015 development programme, whose main objective is the building of a better future for succeeding generations without leaving anyone stranded on the sidelines. In that regard, we call upon the solidarity of the international community as a whole to assist small island developing States.

In conclusion, I would like to welcome the appointment by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of a high representative responsible for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

Mr. Ibrahim (Malaysia): I join previous speakers in expressing Malaysia's appreciation to you, Sir, and the delegation of New Zealand for convening this important and timely open debate. I wish to acknowledge the presence of many leaders and ministers in the Chamber this morning, which underscores the urgency of discussing the international peace and security dimensions of the multifaceted challenges faced by small island developing States (SIDS) today.

Malaysia welcomes this debate, which, in our view, provides a valuable platform for discussing and exchanging views on how we can collectively address the peace and security challenges faced by SIDS in their quest for sustainable development and universal prosperity. My delegation also wishes to thank the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica, as well as the Finance Minister of Seychelles, for their respective briefings, which we followed with much interest.

Malaysia believes that the plight faced by SIDS, particularly the devastating impact of climate change on their countries and populations, must be given due attention by the Council. We subscribe to the view that, if left unchecked, climate change could, in fact, be the greatest threat multiplier endangering global security. What seems clear is that climate change threatens SIDS at the environmental, social and economic levels. The adverse impacts of climate change, such as coastal erosion and rising sea levels, threaten territorial integrity, food security, water, energy, health, and more broadly, efforts by SIDS to eradicate poverty. In the long run, climate change poses an existential challenge to SIDS.

We share the view that the challenge posed by climate change to SIDS is exacerbated by certain factors. For example, their small size limits their capacity to harness growth opportunities and restricts their options for economic diversification, leading to increased dependence on trade and commerce. Those challenges, which are quite specific to SIDS, deserve our attention and special consideration. We should not allow those factors to erode States' capacities or eventually threaten State stability. Peace and security cannot exist without development, and development cannot be achieved without peace.

Another key area of concern is the fact that, to date, adequate financial resources have not been made available to SIDS for the implementation of climate-change adaptation and mitigation projects. In that regard, Malaysia is pleased to note the decision of the board of the Green Climate Fund to aim for a floor of 50 per cent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including SIDS. Malaysia believes that SIDS must be equipped with the necessary capacity to gain access to the Fund. At the same time, more vigorous efforts towards reducing climate-change impacts on SIDS could be achieved, if agreement on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets at the forthcoming twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change could be found.

With a view to better understanding such challenges and in an effort to make further progress in addressing them, Malaysia was pleased to join Spain in hosting an Arria Formula meeting of the Council on a similar topic last month. Among the main views shared during the meeting was the need for the Council to be more engaged on the security impacts of climate change.

Successive agreements concluded in Barbados and Mauritius paved the way for the Samoa Pathway (General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex) adopted just last year at the third International Conference on SIDS, which sought, inter alia, to boost capacity of SIDS to achieve more sustainable development. Among other things, the Samoa Pathway has called on the United Nations system to support the SIDS by incorporating their priorities into the relevant frameworks of the system.

Malaysia remains committed to assist SIDS in their pursuit of sustainable development. Malaysia believes that human resource development and capacity-building are two key elements for achieving sustainable development. We have been providing technical assistance and sharing our experience in those fields through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme. Since its inception in 1980, the Programme has seen the participation of approximately 3,400 participants from 41 SIDS. Apart from short courses in Malaysia, we also offer the services of experts to SIDS in areas where Malaysia has the relevant and proven expertise. Since the SIDS Conference in Samoa last year, Malaysia has increased its allocation to the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme for courses and programmes relevant to SIDS. In 2015, to date, a total of 58 participants from SIDS have attended 19 short courses. Malaysia remains committed to sharing its development experience with the SIDS, particularly in the field of poverty eradication and capacity-building, at both the regional and the international levels.

The peace and security issues facing SIDS will have far-reaching impacts over the decades ahead. We must continue to highlight the unique challenges that confront those countries in order to mobilize greater international support for their developmental needs. We urge the Council to listen to the voices of SIDS and undertake the action necessary to ensure that their path to a resilient future is stable and secure.

Mr. Kononuchenko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council has already held open debates on the threats posed by transnational organized crime, piracy, illicit drug trafficking and climate change. A recent example of that was the Arria Formula meeting on climate change held last month.

We hope that today's discussion will enable us to focus on the consequences and other threats being faced by one of the most vulnerable groups, namely, the small island developing States (SIDS). It is significant that we are focusing on SIDS today, at a time when the international community is on the threshold of adopting a post-2015 development agenda, which includes a broad spectrum of means and resources to implement the new agenda. The pressing needs of the 50 million inhabitants of SIDS are worthy of being appropriately reflected in the new agenda.

The location of SIDS along the important trade routes and the serious gaps in global security systems turn them into convenient transit points for traffickers in natural resources, wildlife, drugs and weapons. The threats posed by the financing of terrorism through the proceeds of crime are high, as was rightly noted in resolution 2195 (2014). We are convinced that an effective response to the threats of transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and piracy hinges on the actions of the international community as a whole, with a leading role being played by the United Nations.

It is important to continue to strengthen the legal and treaty basis for international cooperation to counter transnational organized crime and piracy. We cannot relent in our efforts to create and develop mechanisms for bringing pirates and the sponsors of criminal trade to justice. We acknowledge the existing experience accumulated by SIDS in that field. The provision of specialized technical assistance to SIDS for capacity-building in law enforcement agencies and the bolstering of border security are particularly important.

We would like to separately underscore the role of public-private partnerships in combating criminal challenges. It is important at the national level to create the conditions needed to forge full-fledged cooperation between business and State bodies in that area.

As a result of climate change, the oceans are gradually wresting territory from SIDS, changing the balance of ecosystems and the traditional economic structures of SIDS, and threatening their lifestyles. The Russian Federation has consistently advocated a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing climate change within the framework of the specialized international forums and formats, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We urge all Member States, in accordance with the Lima Call for Climate Action, to submit to the UNFCCC secretariat information on the parameters of their potential obligations under a future climate agreement, as Russia and a number of other countries have already done. We believe that only an understanding of our collective responsibility and a willingness to seek compromise will enable us to make progress at the UNFCCC Climate Conference to be held in Paris in December.

At the same time, no agreement can have positive results without creating the financial and institutional mechanisms required for their implementation. The mobilization of financial assistance and transfer of environmentally clean technologies — as provided for in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted a few days ago by the General Assembly (see A/69/PV.99) in resolution 69/313 — and the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund are essential tools for successfully adapting the socioeconomic systems of small island developing States to new conditions. Another important component for improving the preparedness of small island developing States for disasters will be ensuring that the final document of the Sendai Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II) is implemented as soon as possible.

The Russian Federation actively assists small island developing States. In 2010, our support for that group of countries amounted to about $20 million. Our joint project, with the United Nations Development Programme, on improving Pacific small island developing States' preparedness for natural disasters is in the final stages of preparation with total funding of about $10 million. Since the Security Council does not possess comprehensive expertise on issues of socioeconomic development and the protection of the environment, we believe it can do more to emphasize the importance of supporting small island developing States in grappling with new challenges and threats on their path to achieving sustainable development.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): Ms. Annick Girardin, France's Minister of State for Development and Francophonie, would have liked to be here to speak on the subject of small island developing States dealing with threats to peace and security, an important issue for France and one particularly close to Ms. Girardin's heart, since she herself is from the archipelago of Saint Pierre and Miquelon in the north Atlantic. She was unavoidably detained in Paris on important business and has therefore asked me to convey the following statement to the Council on her behalf.

> "I had hoped to be in the Council today, but unfortunately that has turned out not to be possible. I would first like to thank the New Zealand presidency for organizing today's debate on such an important subject. France endorses the statement to be delivered later on behalf of the European Union and would like to emphasize on the following points.
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> "I would like to reaffirm the message that there can be no development without security and no security without development. France has conveyed that message to Africa, Mali and the Central African Republic, but it is true everywhere, and security in small island developing States also involves anticipating climate risks. In 2015, the year of sustainable development goals and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), I would like to emphasize that aspect and offer a concrete proposal for progress.
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> "In the face of the increasing numbers of climate disasters, I hardly need stress the importance of warning systems to the Council. We all remember Cyclone Pam, which hit Vanuatu in the middle of the Sendai Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. At the Conference, France proposed the simple goal of mobilizing the international community's support for the most vulnerable countries, including small islands and least-developed countries (LDCs), in developing climate warning systems. France considers it part of its responsibility to share its know-how and expertise in order to help those countries that are most vulnerable to climate change. That topic will be central to the success of COP 21, and it is why we devoted a round table to the issue at the Caribbean Climate 2015 Summit, chaired by our President, François Hollande.
>
> "The international community is already mobilizing around the teams from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the World Bank. The Global Framework for Climate Services has enabled much progress to be made. But we are still far from our goal. Currently, not all least-developed countries and small island States possess working warning

systems, and only four or five of almost 40 small island developing States have them. The numbers for LDCs are very similar. According to the WMO, 54 per cent of surface meteorological stations and 71 per cent of satellites deliver no data.

"However, warning systems help save lives and reduce the economic cost of disasters considerably. That is why France, in close coordination with Norway, the WMO, the UNISDR and the World Bank, has launched the Climate Risk Early Warning System initiative. Its objectives are simple. They are, first, strengthening and expanding action on the part of the international community in support of warning systems in vulnerable countries; secondly, mobilizing additional financing for supporting and strengthening actions already under way in order to help achieve global coverage for populations exposed to extreme weather events between now and 2020. We must mobilize to fill the gaps and enable the actors on the ground, at the regional, national and local levels, to work in good conditions, so that the populations concerned, almost all of whom now who now have mobile phones and other modern means of communication, can be alerted in a timely manner when a disaster threatens.

"Finally, there is the question of means. They are within our reach. If we can mobilize about $100 million by 2020, we should be able to change the game in most countries. France is ready to commit to that, and I hope all those here can too. I will be putting our proposal on paper and hope that between now and September we can work together to raise the money. We also have genuine interest from countries such as Mexico, Cuba and others with experience that they are willing to share at the regional level, for example. Businesses, especially insurance and new-technology companies, should also be mobilized. Together, we can make progress with this project, which can be so useful to small islands' security and development."

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important and unique debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica and the Finance Minister of the Seychelles for their instructive briefings, and all the other ministers for their presence here today.

Let me begin, Mr. President, by applauding your initiative in bringing this issue to the Security Council. Small island developing States (SIDS) are a valuable part of our diverse United Nations family, forming more than a quarter of our membership. From the Caribbean to the Pacific, they are important partners on so many issues, whether they involve trade, migration or tackling crime. And through their membership of organizations such as the British Commonwealth, many bring shared history and values to bear on issues of mutual interest and concern.

But as the Secretary-General and the briefers have made clear, small island developing States face significant challenge that are directly relevant to the business of the Council. Vulnerability to natural disasters and food and energy insecurities can all have a disproportionate and destructive impact on their development.

In Grenada in 2004, Hurricane Ivan caused damage that cost double the island's entire gross domestic product. In March this year, Cyclone Pam left thousands homeless in Vanuatu and other Pacific islands. Sadly, the Council requires no introduction to the damage caused by the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the consequences of which Haiti is still dealing with today.

It is because of these vulnerabilities that small island developing States are often the first countries to face the impact of emerging global problems. They can be a bellwether for us all, so it is incumbent on the Council to pay close attention to their situation and offer our support in response. The challenges they face, if left unaddressed, could eventually challenge us all.

Climate change is the clearest example. We have seen countless instances of climate change multiplying interlinked threats in small island developing States. For example, in Tuvalu sea-level rises and in Palau coastal erosion have degraded arable land and undermined food security. In the Pacific region, ocean acidification has damaged fish stocks, impacting both food security and economies, and in Marshall Islands, changing weather patterns have increased extreme weather events such as cyclones and king tides.

If unchecked, these factors can lead to mass migration. Kiribati is already buying land in Fiji to help secure its future. We are already seeing real damage to economies, lost development gains, setbacks to the eradication of poverty and an increase in piracy and arms trafficking. These challenges affect small islands directly; they place additional burdens on neighbouring countries; and they can damage interconnected economies globally.

As an island nation ourselves, the United Kingdom will not be immune to such climate pressures. Nor will we be passive in the face of the climate challenge. That is why we have committed $6 billion to climate finance between 2011 and 2016. It is why we pledged $1.2 billion to the Green Climate Fund and are committed to spending 0.7 per cent of our national income on development. The risk that climate change poses goes beyond our shores and those of small islands. Left unaddressed, climate change could constitute one of the gravest threats to international peace and security for generations.

It is clear that we all need to make climate fragility a key consideration in our foreign policy planning, particularly in our partnerships with small islands. For it is through partnership that the United Nations can offer the greatest support to small islands. Through engaging with bodies such as the Alliance of Small Island States, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and the Commonwealth, we can share our collective expertise to deal with these issues together. We saw the benefits of this approach at last year's SIDS conference, hosted by Samoa.

There are some further opportunities for partnership in the months ahead. Just a week before the Paris Summit, many small island States will take part in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, where they will discuss climate change. A strong Commonwealth message on this issue ahead of Paris would be a welcome call for wider action.

Beyond climate change, I look forward to the General Assembly special session on drugs, to be held in April next year. Issues of organized crime and illicit financial flows linked to the drug trade are of particular concern to many Caribbean small islands. Here, too, we need to recognize in the Council the importance of international cooperation to tackle organized crime and the threat it poses to the stability of States.

So let me conclude, Mr. President, by thanking you again for bringing this issue to the Council. It is an excellent example of how the Council, by working with partners, can look ahead and identify risks upstream. In doing so, we can pre-empt issues that could lead to instability and conflict, and address them together: conflict prevention in action. We hope that we will continue this approach with small island developing States in future.

Mrs. Kawar (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like at the outset to welcome you here to the Security Council, Mr. President, and to thank you and your delegation for having given us this opportunity to discuss this very important topic, namely, peace and security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS). I should like also to thank the Secretary-General and the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica, as well as the Minister of Finance of Seychelles, for their presentations.

SIDS face several challenges, such as climate change, natural disasters, transnational organized crime and the illicit exploitation of natural resources. All of these challenges are threats to peace and security for humankind as a whole. These States have several unique features, including their small size, their isolation or remoteness, and the smallness of their resource base, all of which means that we all need to be more watchful and responsive to their needs.

On the issue of climate change, I think that it is important to talk about the protection of SIDS against the adverse impacts of that phenomenon. That will require the implementation of an international network that is more robust and has a higher profile so as to mobilize international support to tackle this phenomenon. It is also important that we make available all of the necessary resources and financing so as to help these countries to be in a position to better tackle and meet these challenges, which constitute a real survival issue for their populations.

There are many consequences for the rights and the sovereignty and independence of those countries, because entire territories could disappear, along with entire nations. The Security Council must play a key and leading role in meeting these challenges and responding optimally to them. An example of this would be the lack of resources available to those countries, which might lead to conflicts and tension. It is important that we be vigilant in meeting these challenges and find solutions through dialogue and mediation, so as to avert inter-community conflict.

We would like also to thank the French Government, which will shortly host the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in December this year. We call on all countries that will participate in the meeting to reach an agreement to counter that phenomenon when we meet in December, so as to reach an agreement that fully meets and responds to the needs of SIDS in particular.

Illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons also constitutes one of the major threats with which we are faced and a serious form of criminality, organized crime in particular. This is a threat to the security and to the economies of those countries, because the criminal activities supported by such weapons have been ramped up. Such criminality can threaten both foreign and local investment. SIDS are a hub for organized criminal gangs in many cases because of their many unique features, including their geographic remoteness and the difficulty of their authorities effectively tackling trafficking owing to a lack of resources. The international community, therefore, commensurate with the requests of those countries, must make available the requisite aid in order to make sure that they can tackle phenomena such as these. The Governments of those islands also need to shoulder their responsibility to implement and roll out strategies to address trafficking.

Turning to regional issues and initiatives, the Governments of neighbouring island countries must continue to coordinate with their neighbours in order particularly to address the issue of illegal arms trafficking, which often involves small arms, and they must cooperate in a similar way with their larger neighbours. The threats to international peace and security for SIDS are often responded to in Security Council resolutions. We have moved from a general economic embargo to a targeted sanctions regime that focuses on terrorism, cross-border attacks and crimes. There are currently 15 sanctions regimes in place in the United Nations, and fulfilling the mandates of the sanctions Committees is a major challenge to small island developing States. They have problems when it comes to fully implementing sanctions regimes, in particular because these countries are more exposed to the activities of terrorist groups and organizations and those who work to proliferate weapons of mass destruction. Those sanctions regimes are often very complex, particularly with regard to assessing dual-purpose items, traffickers, travel bans, the freezing of companies' assets and the illicit use and transportation of natural resources.

There is therefore an unprecedented need for enhanced capacity to fight such phenomena. Accordingly, in the framework of the 2014 high-level review of the United Nations sanctions regime, Jordan reaffirmed the importance of focusing on capacity-building and to aid those countries who have gaps in the implementation of the sanctions regime. That can be achieved through the establishment of a mechanism allowing such countries to fulfil their legal international commitments under the sanctions regime, thereby enabling us all to remain confident that those sanctions regimes are fully implemented.

In conclusion, we call upon the international community to take the necessary steps to tackle those peace and security challenges — in particular in SIDS — and to work collectively to achieve the stated objectives.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China welcomes the initiative of New Zealand to hold this open debate on the security and peace challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS). China welcomes Foreign Minister McCully to New York to personally preside over the meeting. I am grateful to Prime Minister Malielegaoi, Prime Minister Simpson Miller and Minister Adam for their respective briefings.

SIDS represent a major driving force in promoting the realization of global peace, security and development. In recent years, SIDS have become united and strong and active in international cooperation and thus have made major contributions to the maintenance of global peace and promotion of common development. However, for historical reasons and geographical and resource limitations, SIDS are faced with the task of pursuing further economic development while faced with such non-traditional security threats as organized transnational crimes, rampant piracy and climate change. The international community should pay close to attention to the concerns of SIDS and continue to strive to safeguard their interests. In that connection, I would like to offer the following points.

First, a sound concept of common development should be established. In order to promote the comprehensive development of SIDS, problems should be addressed at their roots. Since development holds the master key to a solution to all problems, the international community should step up the implementation of the measures found in the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action, and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, designed to help SIDS achieve sustainable development.

In the meantime, efforts should be made to establish, develop and deepen partnerships with SIDS and establish mechanisms, in order to further open markets to SIDS in support of their participation in the global economy and international economic and technical cooperation. All of that will create an inviting environment for the development of SIDS. Efforts should also be made to promote South-South cooperation, explore innovative means of funding, strengthen infrastructure development, establish interconnectivity and promote the common development of SIDS. The foreign debts of SIDS should be reduced so that their own development capacity can be increased. Developed countries should honour their commitments in the areas of resources and capacity-building and step up the transfer of technology so as to help those countries to respond to special challenges, such as climate change.

Secondly, the non-traditional security threats faced by SIDS should be properly addressed. In this globalized world of ours, no country can address these non-traditional security challenges on its own. The international community should strengthen international cooperation and help SIDS to better respond to the above-mentioned challenges. When addressing the challenges of non-traditional threats, the voice of SIDS should be better heeded and their sovereignty better respected, and constructive assistance should be provided in accordance with their needs.

Thirdly, more attention should be paid to the capacity-building of SIDS. The emphasis should be on providing comprehensive and coordinated support in the area of information-sharing, technical training and equipment assistance.

Fourthly, regional organizations such as the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community should play an even greater role in responding to non-traditional security challenges and form synergy by formulating a unified strategy and coordinated course of action.

Fifthly, relevant agencies and organs of the United Nations should work within their mandates and bring into full play their respective advantages. The General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies all have their own mandates and functions. When helping SIDS address challenges and pursue comprehensive development, there should be a clear division of labour, so as to avoid redundancy in functions and waste of resources. The international community should also support the Office of the United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in playing a greater role and stregthen its monitoring of the implementation of various mechanisms and initiatives.

Helping SIDS pursue comprehensive development is a requirement of the global cause of development. It is also a shared responsibility of the international community. We support the efforts of SIDS to accelerate their own development and to improve their situation. We are ready to join hands with the international community to make a greater contribution to the maintenance of social order and the achievement of development and prosperity in small island developing States.

Mr. Pressman (United States of America): I would like to thank the Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Prime Minister of Samoa and the Minister of Finance of Seychelles for their briefings, and I thank all of the other distinguished leaders who are present to participate in this open debate today. In particular, I would like to thank New Zealand for focusing the Council on such an important and too often overlooked topic.

Rusina Rusin lives in Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands, on land that has been in her family for generations. She told journalists that she has never seen storms like the ones she has seen in recent years, which occur with much greater frequency and without the rain and wind that used to signal their imminent arrival. Rusina told reporters that in 2014, one of those storms flooded her home, pulling many of her belongings and those of her grandchildren who live with her out to sea. More floods followed in February and March of this year. Rusina, who described herself as not having anything precious except land and grandchildren, said:

> "Every time it floods, it affects the land, and it costs me. I depend on the crops — the coconut trees, bananas, and herbs for medicine. I could never manage a subsistence life if this continues".

Rusina's story is the story of so many people living in the small island developing States, who are disproportionately bearing the consequences of global and man-made problems. Today, I would like to speak to three of those problems and what we as the international community must do to address them.

The first is climate change. As President Obama said recently, "This is not a problem for another generation. It has serious implications for the way we live right now". Fourteen of the hottest fifteen years on record have fallen in the first fifteen years of this century. Last winter was the warmest winter the world has ever recorded. Storms are getting stronger, droughts are getting longer and, as Rusina's story demonstrates, the consequences of climate change impact virtually every aspect of our lives, from our health to our livelihoods, from our habitats to our security. The science is real, the problems are real, and so too is our commitment to addressing them and to doing so together.

One of the most effective ways to help small island developing States and other territories already experiencing the dramatic effects of climate change is to reduce the activities that cause it. The United States is committed to leading that effort, as is demonstrated by our commitment, in March, to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2025. But in order to reach the crucial goal of limiting the global temperature increase to two degrees Celsius, all countries must reduce their footprint and work together to reach an ambitious climate change agreement at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference in December, in Paris.

Many small island developing States are making important contributions of their own to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impact, as the Marshall Islands recently did by committing to reduce emissions by 32 per cent below 2010 levels by 2025. But they cannot do it alone. We in the international community have a critical role to play in supporting their efforts. To give just one example, the United States Agency for International Development's Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility — ADAPT Asia-Pacific — is helping to build the capacity of Governments to access and manage funding to meet needs ranging from coastal resilience to food and water security. In just two years, the ADAPT programme has helped Pacific small island developing States to access some $67 million from multilateral adaptation funds.

The second challenge is energy security. Small island developing States lack large natural energy resource endowments and dependence on high-cost imported energy creates profound economic vulnerability. As with their response to climate change, small island developing States have shown real leadership in addressing that challenge, in large part by developing renewable energy sources. Samoa has committed to achieving 100 per cent renewable energy electricity-generation by 2017, and Aruba is well on its way to meeting that goal by 2020. In Jamaica, ground was broken earlier this year on the country's largest private sector renewable energy project — a 36-megawatt wind farm.

The United States has been and will continue to be a key partner to the small island developing States in developing clean energy sources. That is the aim of President Obama's announcement, in April, together with our Caribbean and Central American partners, of the creation of an energy security task force to drive investment in renewable alternatives. It was also the aim of a series of meetings the United States co-chaired with the International Renewable Energy Agency and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community just last week in Hawaii — in which a number of small island developing States participated — to share best practices in generating clean energy alternatives.

And the third and final challenge I would like to address today is ensuring the protection and sustainability of our oceans. As Secretary of State John Kerry said at the June 2014 Our Ocean conference he convened,

> "The protection of our oceans is a vital international security issue...The connection between a healthy ocean and life itself for every single person on Earth cannot be overstated."

While that connection holds for all people, there are few places where the health of communities and the oceans are more inextricably linked than in small island developing States.

The United States understands the imperative to protect our ocean and coastal environments – particularly when they are endangered by pollution, overfishing, acidification and other threats. To that end, we have partnered with the Nature Conservancy to implement a five year Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program, aimed at reducing threats to marine-coastal biodiversity in the Caribbean.

We are also taking new action against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and seafood fraud. Last year, President Obama tasked United States Government agencies with developing concrete steps to address that problem. The resulting 15 recommendations include strengthening international enforcement and developing a traceability system for all seafood sold in the United States. We urge other countries to undertake similar efforts to tackle that transnational threat to sustainability.

Families like Rusina Rusin's are already experiencing the acute impact of man-made threats to international security like climate change. Their communities and nations are on the front lines, bearing the disproportionate impact of problems that others bear responsibility for causing. That, in itself, should be enough to motivate us to take action.

If that is not enough — and it should be — if it is not enough, consider this: if we do not act swiftly to address those problems, all of the threats manifested in Rusina's community to health, livelihoods, security — all of those threats will eventually be felt in all of our communities. They are not someone else's problems, they are all of our problems. And they are problems we must tackle with determination, with speed and with unity.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): I want to thank you, Sir, and your delegation for organizing this seminal and timely debate. We thank you, especially, for the concept note (S/2015/543, annex) that you have provided to guide our discussion.

We are greatly indebted to the Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Prime Minister of Samoa and the Minister of Finance of Seychelles for sharing their profound and insightful perspectives on the peace and security challenges confronting small island developing States (SIDS). These challenges are aggravated by the inherent geographical circumstances of SIDS, including their relatively small size, remoteness, narrow resource base and exposure to environmental degradation. In turn, these factors conspire to impede not only their socioeconomic and security aspirations, but especially their capacity to fulfil some of their international obligations.

Over the years, SIDS have consistently demonstrated their resolve to address their problems. However, due to the transnational nature of those problems, the imperative of forging creative partnerships for effective redress at both the regional and international levels, is crucial. What we believe is indicated is that strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms among SIDS is pivotal in addressing their unique difficulties and bridging their capacity gaps. The Caribbean Community, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Indian Ocean Commission are notable institutions that can fill those important roles. We acknowledge their achievements in functional cooperation in various sectors, including education, health, culture, sports and security. They have also recorded an appreciable level of coordination in foreign trade and economic policies.

At the international level, the significant role played by the Alliance of Small Island States, as an all-encompassing representative group, provides the necessary impetus for protecting the interests of SIDS. Through the activities of the Alliance of Small Island States, United Nations Member States have been regularly updated on the growing threats to the peace and security of those States. That effort led to the convening of three United Nations conferences on SIDS, with significant outcomes: the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway of 2014. We welcome those outcomes and urge Member States and all stakeholders to work assiduously towards implementation of the commitments made at the conferences. We must also emphasize the imperative for a more integrated approach to the sustainable development goals of SIDS, especially an increase in foreign direct investment.

The unique challenges facing SIDS in our time deserve the special attention of the Council, as many speakers before me have noted. Those challenges in some cases clearly constitute threats to international peace and security. The first step in that direction, in our view, is to strengthen the partnership between the Council and the small island developing States. A mechanism for regular reporting to the Council on developments that could impact the peace and security of small island developing States could be instituted. That, we believe, would facilitate the Council's strategic responsiveness to the security concerns of the small island developing States and determine the level of assistance required to enhance their peace and security needs.

Ultimately, we believe that broad-based support that includes predictable financing from the international community is essential for the development of SIDS. We reiterate the need for increased multi-stakeholder partnerships and a pragmatic approach towards addressing the security challenges of SIDS. The urgency of the threat to SIDS requires focus, deliberate multilateral action. The unique mandate of the Security Council places it in an undisputed position to lead that great effort.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this open debate. I would certainly like to thank the Prime Minister of Samoa, the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the Minister of Finance of Seychelles for their insightful briefings. This debate provides a rare opportunity to discuss the specific challenges faced by the small island developing States (SIDS) in relation to international peace and security.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union later today.

The outcome document of the Third International SIDS Conference in September 2014, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (Samoa Pathway), acknowledged the particular vulnerabilities of SIDS and called for the coordinated action of the international community to address them in a coherent and comprehensive manner. Its implementation is of vital importance for the SIDS, some of which are facing today, in their own words, "an existential threat".

The concept note (S/2015/543, annex) provided for this debate lists a number of challenges they face. Among them, climate change — which, inter alia, reduces access to and the availability of vital resources, such as food and fresh water — threatens the very subsistence of local populations, exacerbates migratory, health and humanitarian pressures, and contributes to human insecurity and potentially to new conflicts. Land is literally disappearing from under the feet of some of the SIDS. In 2005, Vanuatu's Tegua residents were among the first to be relocated as a result of climate change. Climate-related relocation is also the fate of the people of the Carteret Islands of Papua New Guinea. They are among the first, but certainly not the last to be threatened by rising waters.

The Government of Kiribati was forced to buy land in another country, Fiji, to grow food and eventually resettle its population. With the continuous rise of sea levels, States like Tuvalu, Maldives, Seychelles, Micronesia, Vanuatu and others, as well as also large parts of low lying countries like Bangladesh, risk going underwater. The consequences of such developments would be very serious and have an inevitable impact on the wider regional and international security. But as Samoa's Prime Minister said during the Third International SIDS Conference last year, "Sympathy and pity will not provide solace nor halt the devastating impacts of climate change". Small as they are, these countries are taking important initiatives and are at the forefront of very important progress being made in terms of renewable and sustainable development.

The Security Council should fully recognize climate change-induced risks and tensions and the role of climate change as a threat multiplier to international peace and security, and act in a preventive and proactive manner. Resolute, coherent and consolidated action by the international community aimed at strengthening State and regional capacities to manage the effects of climate change amd promote resilience, sustainability, and resource and energy security at the global level has never been more important. In that context, there is a pressing need to reach a universal and ambitious climate change agreement in Paris this year.

Oceans hold about 96 per cent of the Earth's water. Further, ocean acidification, increased flooding and shoreline erosion, fish-stock depletion and rising seawater temperatures would have inevitable security consequences for all humankind. Protecting the oceans and marine environment from further degradation is a question of our common future. One issue specifically mentioned in the Samoa Pathway is the need to address the long-term effects of sea-dumped munitions and their impact on human health and the marine environment. As the main sponsor of General Assembly resolution 68/208 on sea-dumped chemical munitions, Lithuania fully shares the concerns of SIDS in that respect and looks forward to close cooperation on related matters.

Due to their size, remoteness and institutional capacity constraints, SIDS' vulnerabilities are many and varied. Besides environmental threats, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, maritime security and piracy, as well as the less immediate threats related to cybersecurity and terrorism, are huge for any one country to tackle, but especially for small, geographically isolated developing island States. Since 2011, Lithuania has taken part in the international efforts against piracy off the coast of Somalia in the Indian Ocean, as part of the European Union Naval Force Atalanta, Operation Atlanta. We are pleased to note that such efforts have shown positive results, leading to a dramatic reduction of pirate attacks since 2013. We appreciate the efforts of Seychelles in that respect, which established a vigorous judicial system enabling the quick prosecution and conviction of pirates and thus made a significant contribution to the common effort of tackling the threat of piracy.

Among the multiple challenges that SIDS face, the illicit trafficking, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons remain a major concern. My delegation was happy to initiate and negotiate resolution 2220 (2015) in May, and we hope that its full implementation will contribute to tackling those very serious issues, because in the smallest of States, even a few hundred weapons in the wrong hands have the potential to plunge countries into chaos.

In the Caribbean region, as the Prime Minister of Jamaica reminded us, the illegal smuggling of weapons is a key driver of violence, criminality and the empowerment of criminal gangs and accounts for up to 70 per cent of murders. The loss of life, predominantly among the young, hampers long-term socioeconomic development, with destabilizing effects. While each situation is different, stockpile management, an accountable security sector and the rule of law are key to tackling armed violence. Comprehensive firearms legislation, including import, export and transit controls, is also essential. In 2011, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries adopted a Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons as their regional framework for tackling the problem. Such regional cooperation initiatives are very important and can offer useful examples for others.

The adoption and entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) represents a unique opportunity to make relevant legislation more rigorous and uniform across the regions. We welcome the fact that the majority of SIDS have either signed or ratified the ATT and have taken steps to develop model legislation for its implementation. While terrorism is not yet a major issue among SIDS, one cannot lower one's guard. Porous marine borders can be easily exploited by criminal and terrorist groups, also in view of the evolving links between terrorism and transnational organized crime, the pernicious presence of which is already felt by many of the SIDS. For countries that rely heavily on tourism as a source of revenue, rampant criminality or an attack against foreign tourists can cause a serious blow to local economies, with considerable effects. Preventive efforts should be taken to ensure that relevant national legislations are compliant with international norms and standards and that necessary capacities to deal with such deadly phenomena are put in place.

While some SIDS have made impressive strides in building such capacities and fostering regional cooperation, the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security and the Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre can be mentioned in that respect. Support and assistance by relevant United Nations and other bodies, including on counter-terrorism, remain of critical importance given the limited resources and capabilities of those States.

In Samoa last year, the Secretary-General called SIDS a magnifying glass whose lenses reveal vulnerabilities that demand an international response. In the processes affecting SIDS today, we may be seeing a harbinger of a global tomorrow. If we fail to act with all due urgency, the threats and vulnerabilities affecting small island developing States today may spread to affect much larger communities, threatening international peace and security. More often than not, in terms of prevention the Council has been lacking, doing too little too late. Acknowledging early and acting together on the security challenges to SIDS offers a rare opportunity to take preventive action. That opportunity should not be missed.

The President: I request the Protocol Officer to escort His Excellency Mr. Anote Tong, President of Kiribati, to his seat at the Council table.

Mr. Anote Tong, President of Kiribati, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I welcome President Anote Tong and give him the floor.

President Tong: Let me begin by thanking you, Sir, for this opportunity to address the Security Council at this open debate. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica, together with the Minister of Finance of Seychelles, for their very informative statements early in this meeting.

I believe that as a global community, we have gone well past debating what should and should not be considered global security challenges, and what are and are not immediate threats to global security and survival. As Pacific island leaders, through the Majuro Declaration adopted in the Republic of the Marshall Islands in 2013, we declared climate change to be a security threat to Pacific island nations and even sought to bring the matter to the attention of the Council for consideration. The initiative to hold this open debate of the Security Council is therefore particularly welcome.

It is also encouraging to note the growing momentum in the level of global acknowledgement of the issue of climate change. This is an issue borne from the actions of the whole of humankind, and yet remains lacking in effective global leadership and global accountability, and remains peripheral in the considerations of those with the capacity and capability to address and mitigate the relentless advance of climate change impacts. Ironically and regrettably, it is also those with the least capacity and the least capability who are bearing the full brunt and impact of a security challenge that has the capacity to wreak extensive damage — a security challenge that has the capacity to wipe out whole nations and whole cultures and indeed wipe out life as we know it today on this planet.

The science forthcoming from the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and elsewhere, together with our individual experiences in our own countries and events taking place in different regions as we speak today, provide more than ample evidence that something is terribly wrong. It is evidence that we are nearing the point of no return, and yet we continue to procrastinate and to remain hesitant, willing and hoping our neighbours will take the first step, rather than taking the crucial first step ourselves that will set the tone for the global community to follow.

We have come all this distance, at considerable cost, to attend this event because for us it is of vital importance. Our people are asking the question: What is it that we can expect to come out of this Security Council event? Can we as leaders return today to our people and be confident enough to say: yes, your existence and your lives are important and we, your leaders of the global community, have formulated options to ensure that no matter how high the sea rises and no matter how severe the storms get, there are credible technical solutions to raise your islands and your homes, and the necessary resources are available to ensure that all will be in place before it is too late.

For those of us in Kiribati and other countries on the front line of climate change, the impacts began happening yesterday — last year. For us, any incremental rise in sea level threatens our very existence and our very livelihoods. Time is of the essence, and the urgency of climate change as a global security threat cannot be stressed enough. The quiet onslaught of climate change lulls us into a false sense of security — into the belief that the cost of addressing it now is far too high and can be deferred to the next generation. This makes it even more deadly and dangerous as a security challenge that should not be ignored or treated with complacency. We have all experienced to some extent the severity and frequency of changing weather patterns and we can all understand that when — not if — these climate change-related disasters grow more frequent, the entire global community will suffer from increasing instability and increasing conflicts.

However, we all as global leaders must provide the needed leadership to do something now and to ensure that this meeting of the Security Council can deliver, be decisive and agree on a set of actions that will provide some guarantees of future security to all. We owe our children, our grandchildren and their children more than that. We need action that can guarantee that no one will be left behind and, most importantly, urgent action to address the security and existential challenges from climate change for the most vulnerable peoples in front-line States.

The sad reality is that we cannot do this alone; hence our appeal today to the Council and, of course, to the rest of the global community. For as responsible global citizens of this planet, which we share as a home, it is our moral obligation to ensure its preservation. It is our moral obligation to ensure that the future of our children, our grandchildren and their children is safe and secure. For their sake, we must us do the right thing as a matter of urgency.

Let me conclude by sharing our very traditional Kiribati blessings of *Tå Mauri, Tå Raoi, ao Tå Tabomoa*.

The President: I thank President Anote Tong for his statement.

I now give the floor to Premier Talagi of Niue.

Mr. Talagi: In our discussion with respect to security threats to the Pacific islands, I shall focus my attention and comments on climate change. As we have heard today from all speakers, security in the Pacific is not confined to climate change alone, but I see climate change as the being the most challenging and the most critical to the people of the Pacific and the world.

I believe that we should set a visionary target of 1.5 per cent carbon dioxide levels for 2100, and that we should then also set targets on a decade basis to ensure that we can achieve that visionary target. Currently, each country decides its own target. It is a unilateral target based on its own assessment of roughly what the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has set.

There is also a vast difference in the perception that we have and the responses to the disasters that occur. The larger countries respond regionally, within the country itself. The impacts are considered localized and may or may not impact the whole country a great deal at all. For the small island countries, however, a disaster is not isolated in a region; the whole country is affected. Consequently, national disasters often occur with respect to droughts, cyclones, tsunamis, flooding and other phenomena that are becoming regional disasters.

I will now talk about some of the issues that have been raised by members of the Council today, the economic impacts that these will have on our countries. But the way in which we perceive climate change and disasters, or true national disaster, are different. Why is that? Why do we perceive climate change and the disasters that occur differently from how the larger developed countries perceive them? For the larger economies, for the large countries, it is a blip; for small economies, small islands, it is a major disaster. That is why responses to climate change are so vastly different and why we cannot reach agreement on what we should be doing.

One of the things that I wanted to raise in this Chamber is that we come here with the information given to us by climate scientists. We are politicians. That is not our role. Our role is to figure out the politics of climate change and determine and make decisions on that basis, using climate science to underpin the information, the decisions and the policies we make in that respect. We all know that there is a commonality in the disasters that occur. Psychological trauma, debilitating illnesses, lack of hope from loss of lives and livelihoods are the social and human impacts of natural disasters. The funny thing is that it is true not only for small island countries, but also for large countries. Those present here have this effect with their own people.

The only other thing that is important with respect to climate change, as far as I can see, at the present time is funding. Unfortunately, we need funds to enable us to continue to rebuild our gross domestic product (GDP) after major disasters. And, as I have already pointed out, they are major in the sense that they have an impact. The President of this Council today just said that 45 per cent of Vanuatu's GDP was affected by a cyclone. For some of us it is almost a 100 per cent, so we have to rebuild again. Some here have to do the same thing within their regions.

The question that is asked is: what does this have to do with the Security Council? So far, nothing. We talk a great deal about climate change, but has the Security Council responded to climate change in a manner that it should? I like the example given by Minister Murray McCully. The Government of New Zealand recognized that we needed some support with our energy, to reduce our dependence on energy, and it turned up and installed solar plants, and away we go. Now some of those countries have reduced their imports of oil to virtually nothing.

I like that response, and I would like the Council to consider that response. Some States represented here spend lots of money hiring consultants who come and tell us, "This is what we believe you should be doing". Clearly, that is a slightly different approach to what we perceive. Most of the time most of the money is spent on consultants. In fact, I sometimes think, sitting under my coconut tree in Niue, that 80 to 90 per cent of the funds that are provided by countries, by their tax payers, to help us is spent by consultants, with your support. It cannot be right, surely.

The final thing that I want to talk about is fish and minerals of the Pacific. We hear ourselves described as being poor — and we are poor. We have got plenty of fish, but we are still poor. We have minerals in the sea now and on land, and we are still poor. Why is that? Because countries represented here are not helping us. Give us a fish here, off the returns from the fish that you catch in our waters. Countries need to do that, to help us. Countries need to do that with the minerals that we are looking to develop at the present moment under the sea. We are not poor. We are rich.

But Jamaica is poor, some countries are, and my plea for all here today is to rethink that perception of the Pacific and work with us in true partnerships to help us. Exploit and harness sustainably the resources that we have in fish and minerals in the sea.

I hope I have not caused too many problems today. Obviously, Mr. President, you have given me two new islands to work from. I thank you very much for the time you have given me to say my little piece about how I perceive it on my coconut in the middle of the Pacific.

The President: I thank Premier Talagi of Niue for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Charles Fernandez, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Antigua and Barbuda.

Mr. Fernandez (Antigua and Barbuda): I welcome this opportunity to exchange views with all those present on international security matters that are of interest to small States and the larger, more powerful States and members of the Security Council. At a time when the Council's agenda is packed with a multitude of crises, conflicts and issues that threaten peace and security, and which are more headline-grabbing, the chance to share the perspective of the security concerns of small States is indeed welcome.

Small island developing States (SIDS) face a multifaceted set of security challenges that require a pre-emptive response. Ours are not the type of challenges that easily grab headlines, yet they must be tackled to safeguard our very existence.

The current international security structures and mechanisms, in particular the Security Council, are not set up to adequately address the security challenges of small island developing States in concrete, actionable ways. The types of threats we face today, such as climate change, are not the same as those faced when such structures were created. Additionally, the geopolitical landscape has changed significantly, leading to changes in the nature of threats to our peace and security. They are not combative, not based on military considerations and sanctions. The threats to our peace and security go far beyond the military dimension; they are intricately entwined in the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainability.

The threats to the borders of SIDS, the shorelines of the Caribbean and the State of Antigua and Barbuda are real and present threats. To the concerned citizens of SIDS, these threats appear to be irreversible, but if acted upon with determination and zeal by the Security Council and regarded as high priority by the international community, these peace and security challenges can be curtailed, insulated and even reversed.

Climate change and sea level rise are unquestionably the most urgent threat to the environment and the sustainable development of SIDS. Climate change, if not addressed, has the potential to threaten the peace and security of all SIDS, including their socioeconomic well-being, particularly since it could have negative impacts on the tourism industry, the driver of most of our economies. In the case of Antigua and Barbuda, because tourism accounts for 70 per cent of our gross domestic product, it is a matter of economic survival.

Within SIDS, infrastructures and human health will be threatened by the effects of climate change. This threat is further magnified by the relatively small land masses of our countries and the fact that our populations and economic activities are concentrated in coastal areas. Our high dependence on coastal ecosystems for food, livelihood, security and protection from extreme events makes the threat of climate change all the more challenging. Furthermore, unresolved problems stemming from poverty, scarcity of resources, constrained governance, increasing crime and the demands of adaptation make SIDS even more vulnerable to natural hazards.

The peace and security challenges to SIDS are worsened by failure to build capacity and by insufficient financing for the implementation of strong policies and mitigation mechanisms. In addition, available resources are channelled predominantly to post-disaster operations instead of to disaster risk reduction. The impact of the international drug trade and the prevalence of small arms are also a significant security threat that requires collective international collaboration if we are to successfully tackle the problem.

SIDS economies are also highly exposed to external shocks resulting from our heavy dependence on a few markets and the erosion of trade preferences within these markets. SIDS are inherently economically vulnerable due to, among other factors, our remoteness, our limited ability to diversify, our heavy dependence on a narrow range of exports and the high costs of importation; for the most part, prices for essential goods such as food and fuel are highly volatile.

These challenges are best illustrated by some of the major trade imbalances. For example, Caribbean SIDS have witnessed the erosion of our trade preferences with our traditional trading partners, which has resulted in an increase in the global market share of our trade competitors, while in some cases crippling some of the industries within the Caribbean. Antigua and Barbuda has been facing such a challenge for the past 10 to 12 years.

SIDS, and in particular Caribbean SIDS, are regarded as some of the most indebted countries in the world. This debt burden poses peace and security challenges beyond our shores. A few years ago, the global financial crisis decimated capital flows, savings and investment in every small island State, resulting in negative growth and economies that are now teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. For example, Antigua and Barbuda lost 25 per cent of its gross domestic product, and many other small island States in the Caribbean have also suffered from contracting economies. These are examples of the peace and security challenges that threaten the existence of small island developing States.

In conclusion, I would like to paraphrase the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Honourable Gaston Browne, who warns that not acting to address these challenges, not acting and doing nothing, will redound to the detriment of larger more secure States as they will be forced to cope with the agony of human displacement of determined refugees and the consequences of the human misery of people flooding their borders on a quest for peace and security. We congratulate New Zealand for recognizing that there ought to be a greater push at the highest level within the United Nations to highlight the peace and security challenges facing SIDS. Finally, as the saying goes, "men argue, nature acts". Let us hope that after today's debate the international community will join with SIDS to act.

The President: I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Bahamas.

Mr. Mitchell (Bahamas): At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of New Zealand for this very timely opportunity to discuss the peace and security challenges of small island developing States (SIDS) and to highlight in this forum some of their specific vulnerabilities. My Prime Minister asked me, in recognition of the special assistance New Zealand gave to the Bahamas over the last year as it implemented its new tax system, to attend today's meeting so we could express our hopes for its success and support this laudable effort. I would also like to say at the outset that we align ourselves with the statements made by the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Bahamas has stated in many forums that, for our country, there are no higher priorities than the environment, fighting crime and containing illegal immigration. These matters for the Bahamas go to the very root of our existence. That was the point I made when I spoke in the general debate at the General Assembly last year (see A/69/PV.20). I would now add to that list of priorities the issues of unemployment and the economy. All of our efforts are intended to go to the root of peace and security. The main themes are buttressed by our work to ensure that we have a safer, more prosperous, modern, peaceful and ultimately stronger Bahamas and region.

Climate change represents the most serious global environmental and development challenge, with far reaching security implications. As a country particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, the Bahamas believes that the security implications of climate change must be primarily addressed at the multilateral level by bodies that are inclusive, representative and transparent. We underscore that if urgent and ambitious actions are taken to comprehensively address climate change in this context, the security implications associated with climate change will be reduced, thereby diminishing the existential threat faced by some SIDS, including those of us in the Caribbean Community.

The Bahamas is entirely convinced that the international community must attach the highest priority to completing ongoing climate change negotiations within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on a new legally binding agreement that results in the achievement of substantial emission reductions in the shortest possible time frame and significantly increases the level of resources available to vulnerable developing countries, including SIDS, in order to assist them in adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change. What is important is that access to these resources must for all SIDS and low-lying coastal developing States be at the concessional rates and not made available based on the determinant of gross domestic product per capita.

The Bahamas has also been grappling with serious crime in our society, related, in large measure, to the inability of young males to settle disputes without recourse to violence and the resultant proliferation of gang activity and illicit drugs, small arms and light weapons, and ammunition trafficking. The Bahamas was therefore actively involved in the negotiations leading to the successful adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and considered that adoption a landmark accomplishment for the United Nations. Our Government believes the entry into force of the ATT will contribute to peace and security in the Bahamas. Accordingly, we deposited the instruments of ratification of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the Arms Trade Treaty on 25 September 2014. We continue to fight the illegal drug trade and trafficking in persons and have been investing in social intervention programmes in order to fight crime.

I spoke earlier of the adverse effects of illegal immigration on our national security. In this regard, we have made serious efforts to stop the flow of undocumented non-Bahamian nationals into our territory. New policies are now in place and there will be strict adherence to these measures in order to stop that flow. Last year, the Bahamas entered into important agreements with our immediate neighbours — Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti — to come to terms with the vexing situations that impact our good relations, including reaching accords on fishing and on migration. We fully intend to bring illegal migration under control.

A moment ago, I added unemployment and the economy to the list of my country's highest priorities. On that front, the Bahamas is now facing an existential threat to good governance— the realization that, if not properly managed, a single investor can seek to destabilize the governance of a country through dominance of its economy and deliberate and improper interference in its local politics. Add to that the efforts of various multilateral bodies and some Member States to undermine the economies of many Caribbean Community States by imposing mandates on the financial-services sectors that are now an essential part of our economies. Such imposed mandates are inimical to fair trade. While these multilateral bodies and Member States may see their zeal for tax collection as a moral triumph on their part, the resulting destruction caused by moving the goal posts and changing the rules without consultation is a moral negative rather than a triumph. If the economies of our countries collapse, leading to our citizens' departure from their homes, the migration that would cause could only be destabilizing around the world. That is a threat to peace and security.

We have been asked today to consider the role that the Security Council might play with regard to the assistance provided to SIDS in addressing challenges to the maintenance of peace and security, including those I have highlighted. In response, the Bahamas would say that while we see a role for the Security Council in combating such threats and challenges as part of a multifaceted and collaborative global response, it bears repeating that those threats and challenges must be addressed primarily at the multilateral level by bodies that are inclusive, representative and transparent. Finally, in that connection, I would conclude by calling for reform of the Security Council, which we support — a change that is long overdue, that would reflect twenty-first-century realities, and that could see a rotating seat for the small island developing States.

Once again, I am grateful for this opportunity to address the Council.

The President: I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados.

Ms. McClean (Barbados): It is a pleasure to see New Zealand seated among the 15 members of the Security Council, where, typically, the perspectives of small island developing States (SIDS) are not articulated. My delegation would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States, which for the first time brings the focus of the Security Council to the specific concerns of SIDS.

At the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa, the importance of peace and security was reaffirmed. The preamble to the Conference's SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway outcome document (General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex) reaffirmed

> "the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women's empowerment, reducing inequalities and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development."

The Government of Barbados continues to oppose the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. On a day-to-day basis, however, we must focus on the trade in small arms and light weapons that facilitates traffic in illicit drugs and other organized crime, undermines our economy and can destabilize society. In the 2011 Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Heads of Government emphasized the grave threat posed by small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, and committed to implementing all necessary actions at the national and regional level to fully combat their illicit trade. Moreover, in 2013 the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community adopted a CARICOM crime and security strategy entitled "Securing the Region". It lists a number of immediate significant threats to the region, such as transnational organized crime, gang crime, cyber crime, financial crime and corruption.

The situation is of course made worse by the many vulnerabilities peculiar to or common among SIDS. They include narrow resource bases, small domestic markets, a susceptibility to external shocks owing to high degrees of openness, and environmental vulnerability. The threats are made more significant by the geography of SIDS. Often made up of small land masses, SIDS have air and maritime borders that are multiple times larger. The cost of protecting national borders is thus prohibitive, and difficult in circumstances where SIDS find it equally challenging to exploit their important maritime resources and are therefore unable to benefit fully from them. Taken together, these threats to peace and security require the diversion of already limited resources at a significant cost to national development. They have a grave impact on the socioeconomic development of Barbados and other CARICOM States, extracting a high toll in human lives and productivity, lowering the quality of life, impeding social development and undermining economic growth.

In Barbados and throughout the Caribbean region, we are aware of the need for international partnerships in facing challenges to peace and security. We are pleased by the decision of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to re-establish a presence in the Caribbean, and expect that its contribution as a global leader in crime prevention will help us in the burdensome task we must undertake. We look forward to an early commencement of the project in Barbados.

It is often said that there can be no peace without development, and no development without peace. SIDS have made dedicated efforts towards both those ends. We call on developed States and international financial institutions to support small island developing States, which are engaged in a constant fight to raise the level of development they have attained. In the SAMOA Pathway, member States recalled how critically important international cooperation and partnerships are to achieving SIDS' sustainable development. Peace and security are integral enablers of that development. We maintain that these issues are inextricably linked and that a holistic approach must be taken to them in order to ensure success.

As ocean States, SIDS attach particular importance to maintaining healthy seas. We remain concerned by the myriad threats facing our oceans. They include illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, pollution, acidification and coastal runoff. As a region, we are acutely aware of the deleterious effects that these threats can have on our communities' food security and livelihoods. We therefore welcome the ongoing discussions taking place here at the United Nations aimed at formal recognition of how important the conservation and sustainable use of our oceans, seas and marine resources are to the sustainable development of SIDS. Barbados congratulates New Zealand and other members of the Security Council for the constructive role they continue to play in this issue.

As we engage in this dialogue on the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States, it is clear that the narrow postwar definition of peace and security that has guided the work of the Council in its 70 years of existence must be broadened. Much has changed since 1945. The Organization must keep pace and step into the twenty-first century. Change can only serve to make it more inclusive and dynamic.

I would like to briefly mention the issue of climate change. The existential threat posed to SIDS by climate change can only be tackled by a comprehensive international effort grounded in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Barbados is supportive of the various arenas in which this peril is being tackled and appreciates the supportive framework that these multiple processes offer. However, we maintain that the negotiations process under the UNFCCC remains the pre-eminent and most appropriate space for discussions on climate change to take place.

In conclusion, the Government of Barbados thanks you, Mr. President, for taking the initiative during your presidency to organize this special event dedicated to the unique challenges faced by SIDS. We look forward to a time in the near future when the peace and security challenges facing SIDS are an integral part of the work of the Security Council. It is our hope that this debate will be a step in that direction.

The President: I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Fiji.

Mr. Kubuabola (Fiji): Fiji aligns itself with the statement delivered by the President of Kiribati, His Excellency Anote Tong, on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States (SIDS).

I thank you, Mr. President, for the invitation to participate in this Security Council debate. I wish in particular to convey Fiji's gratitude to you, Foreign Minister McCully, and the Government of New Zealand for convening this debate. I also take this opportunity to extend Fiji's congratulations to you on the occasion of your presidency of the Council for the month of July.

By way of introduction, may I also make the point that many small island developing States are actively contributing to the management of global security problems. Fiji, for instance, has been participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations since 1978. Our participation has come at a considerable cost to our country. We have lost precious, innocent lives in the course of Blue Helmet duties, and the provision of peacekeeping personnel has cost our Government substantial amounts from our national budgets. Despite these burdens, Fiji remains steadfast in its commitment to the cause of United Nations peacekeeping.

Climate change has emerged as the biggest threat to the security of small island developing States, and Fiji is no exception in this regard. Climate change has been accurately described as a risk multiplier. The man-made causes of climate change are now well established, and it must be clear to all by now that small island developing States are the victims of a problem not of their creation.

In the south-west Pacific, we face a future in which sea levels will rise to the great detriment of our island foreshores. Likewise, we will be attacked by tropical storms of unprecedented severity and frequency. While the rest of the world debates the implications of climate change, we in the small islands and atolls of the Pacific are having to deal with the problem, because it is already upon us.

To respond to the security threat of climate change, we need strategic investment in adaptation measures. We need to move from rhetoric to a more pragmatic and action-oriented response. We believe that it is for the Security Council and development partners to bring greater international effort to ensuring that we have the capacity, both human and institutional, to deal with this existential threat to the security of the small island developing States.

One obvious response measure is to address the issue of sustainable energy in a meaningful way. Supplying energy through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heat and transport is a major source of greenhouse-gas emissions, causing climate change and ocean acidification. This has to stop, or at least be severely curtailed, if we are going to have sustainable development on this planet. We therefore call for a much greater share of global capital to be directed at the development of renewable energy sources and green growth frameworks for the future we want.

I turn now to the threat to the biodiversity of the world's environment, with particular emphasis on oceans and seas. It is essential that we protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of our oceans, marine ecosystems and fisheries. We are challenged to maintain their biodiversity, enable their conservation and manage the sustainable use of their resources for present and future generations.

The marine environment provides opportunities for sustainable economic growth for SIDS, but only if we can overcome existing threats. The ongoing overexploitation of ocean resources through illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing is a significant security threat to SIDS, in relation to both sovereignty issues and the overall sustainability of marine resources. IUU fishing deprives coastal communities of their source of livelihood and income and is thus a security threat to the economies of SIDS.

We call on bodies such as the Council to help small island developing States overcome this problem by coalescing in international cooperation and technical support mechanisms to strengthen the monitoring, control and surveillance of our oceans. It is largely because of these security threats to our marine environment that the Triennial Oceans and Seas Global Conference process is being constructed, in order to ensure the integrity of the forthcoming sustainable development goals on the sustainable use of marine resources.

The third area we wish to address is that of the vulnerability of small island developing States to the criminal activities of the wider international community. By definition, SIDS are vulnerable owing to their small size, developing economies and isolated locations. Many struggle to adequately control their sovereign boundaries. The resources of organized crime from larger countries often exceed those of SIDS. It is thus that many of them are fighting losing battles against the illegal activities of drug traders and human traffickers.

Transnational organized crime is a security threat to small island developing States because of the aforementioned control capacities, particularly in relation to effective border controls. But it is also a security threat because of the ways and means by which organized crime introduces corruption to vulnerable small island developing States. As the sources of this organized crime are the supply-and-demand markets to which these illegal activities are ultimately directed, we call on the countries concerned to give greater cooperation, assistance and resources to small island developing States to combat these illegal activities.

In conclusion, we join with others in calling for the Council to remain seized of the security challenges faced by SIDS. We repeat the conclusions of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (Samoa Pathway) on the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and ensure genuine and durable partnership at the national, regional and international levels as the best means of overcoming these challenges.

The President: I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Pato (Papua New Guinea): Papua New Guinea supports the position to be advanced by Tonga and Maldives, as Chairs, on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States and the Alliance of Small Island States.

I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for ably steering the work of the Security Council this month. We commend New Zealand's initiatives and facilitation of this important yet rare dialogue for small island developing States (SIDS).

The General Assembly has recognized the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS. We therefore strongly urge the Security Council to give greater consideration to the special circumstances of SIDS in relation to both traditional and non-traditional security concerns. Much has been said by the other speakers before me on this issue.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change remains the primary forum to address climate-change concerns. But more agencies of the United Nations system and others are needed to be engaged, including the General Assembly, the World Bank, the Global Green Growth Institute, the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, alongside SIDS plans, the implementation of which is constrained by lack of resources. A good example of United Nations system team work is the One UN office in Papua New Guinea, which coordinates all of the activities of the United Nations agencies consistent with national development priorities and programmes for development, including on the impacts of climate change.

The nexus between sustainable development, peace and security is clear. Without peace and security, sustainable development will be difficult. To achieve sustainable development requires meaningful partnerships, which requires the United Nations system to enable SIDS' adherence to the rule of law and to building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions and societies that promote and protect human rights consistent with the United Nations Charter.

In that context, Papua New Guinea has committed $150 million to Pacific SIDS over the next five years to address some of their challenges in education, health, capacity-building, climate change, and infrastructure rehabilitation and development following natural disasters such as the cyclone Pam in Vanuatu. Papua New Guinea is also setting up and funding a small islands State office for the Pacific Region.

On transnational crimes, human trafficking and people smuggling, the United Nations system and the Security Council should adopt methods to weed out the root causes of illegal migration in countries of origin and deal with the challenges faced by transit nations — like Papua New Guinea — and destination countries. Under Papua New Guinean national security policy, necessary measures are being taken to combat transnational crime, including scaling up efforts in border monitoring, surveillance and control. But more needs to be done.

For most SIDS, the ocean is the main source of food security and an important resource, that is, the blue economy, which needs protection so as to be able to ensure sustainable development. SIDS are hampered by resource constraints from being able to ensure sustainable management and exploitation of fishery resources and the blue economy. There is little or no surveillance protection for those resources, some of which problems, Mr. President, you have addressed. Our fisheries and other marine resources are being exploited by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. We request that United Nations agencies provide relevant support through institutions such as the Pacific Islands Forum and the Forum Fisheries

Agency, which are functioning effectively in SIDS regions — particularly in the Pacific — so as to enable sustainable management and protection.

All of that cannot be discussed without recognizing the importance of increasing women's participation in all gender-related activities aimed at preventing and resolving armed conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding. The lessons that we have learned from our civil conflict on the island of Bougainville in the 1990s is a case in point, which has proved to us that women are just as capable peacemakers and peacebuilders as men and that they must be integrated in the decision-making process and given leadership roles so as to enable development.

In conclusion, the challenges faced by SIDS are serious. We need to take practical measures directed at achieving the outcomes that we want. If the work required is to develop templates for accessing resource support for SIDS, the United Nations system must accept responsibility for formulating them, so that, over time, we can together build a sustainable and prosperous world based upon the rule of law that guarantees protection for all of us.

The President: I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Commerce and Information Technology of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Mr. Gonsalves (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines): Saint Vincent and the Grenadines would like to begin by fully aligning itself with essentially all of the statements that have been made, in particular with the statements delivered by our Caribbean Community (CARICOM) colleagues — the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the Ministers of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas and Barbados. Although the Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago has yet to speak, I am sure that I can comfortably align myself with what he will say. I would also like to endorse very strongly what was said by the Foreign Minister of the Seychelles, particularly in describing small island developing States (SIDS) as essentially large ocean developing States that extend beyond the rocks upon which we live.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines applauds New Zealand for its decision to focus the attention of the Security Council on the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States. New Zealand is an island State, surrounded by small island developing States, and it has demonstrated strong understanding and commitment to the specificities and challenges confronting SIDS.

I would like to commend you as well, Mr. Minister, for your own display of stamina today, as we have worked through the luncheon interval — a threat to your own food security. I see that the faces around the table have all changed except for yours, and I salute your stamina in that regard. New Zealand's use of its tenure as President of the Security Council to highlight SIDS is of particular importance, given the Council's historical indifference, even antipathy at times, to small island States and our peace and security challenges. While the Council has from time to time pronounced itself, at various levels, on matters involving SIDS, it is nonetheless true to say that small island developing States, our issues and perspectives have been, by and large, excluded from serious and sustained consideration by the Security Council.

Within the Caribbean region — with the exception of Haiti, which has benefited from missions and multilateral engagement by this organ — the Council has only occasionally become engaged when hegemonic dramas have been enacted on island stages, as in the case of the 1983 invasion of Grenada or the Cuban missile crisis. However, other significant incidents — ranging from election violence in one CARICOM State, which claimed over 800 lives in the 1980s, to Hurricane Ivan's 2004 multi-island swath of death and destruction — many episodes have come and gone with barely an acknowledgement from the Council. To date, the Council remains silent on the obvious threat to peace and security posed by the Dominican Republic's decision to forcibly expel thousands of individuals born within its borders. Except in those rare instances when an island happens to be the fulcrum upon which global Powers balance, we are ignored.

Indeed, one of the most compelling arguments in support of a comprehensive reform of the Council is its demonstrated failure to adapt to a world where SIDS are significant multilateral actors with unique perspectives and issues that merit consideration at all levels of diplomacy. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has put its name forward as a candidate for the Council for the 2020-2021 period, because we believe that we have practical lessons and perspectives to share in contributing to peace and societal harmony without a surfeit of cash or weapons to throw at potential problems. We are candidates also because, in the history of the United Nations, only eight small island developing States have ever served on the Security Council; because only three of the 14 CARICOM States have ever brought their perspectives to bear as members of the Council; and because a full 40 per cent of the countries that have never served on the Council are small island developing States. The result is that, in the great majority of cases, even during the few times that the Council formally considers a small island developing State, there are no small island developing States on the Council to add context and perspective to the deliberations.

The special threats to peace and security in SIDS and their solutions must be understood through the prisms of size, openness and exogenous influence. Hurricane Ivan was a localized disaster in the United States, but a national disaster in Jamaica, Cuba, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada. Flash flooding such as the type that occurred in the eastern Caribbean in 2013 was relatively brief and isolated, but caused death, damage and instability in Saint Lucia, Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines — damage from which we are still recovering. As has already been said today, climate change is obviously a threat, but it is not simply a multiplier of threats to peace and security. It is a grave and destabilizing threat in and of itself.

A relatively small, poorly armed gang of thugs in a large developed country may present a localized or municipal law-enforcement challenge. In a small island developing State, that same gang's power is multiplied exponentially, and its potential to destabilize a society is immense, particularly in States with modestly equipped, unarmed constabularies with limited experience in thwarting transnational crime. In addition, unlike most of the challenges confronted by the Council, SIDS are probably unique in being beset by largely exogenous threats. The causes of climate change, transnational crime, illicit small arms trafficking, resource theft, cross-border threats and global financial instability are all beyond our borders. That is an important factor in the Council's consideration of the recommendations and measures available to maintain peace and preserve security on behalf of SIDS.

As we speak, almost half of the countries of the Caribbean Community are either participating in or have recently emerged from painful, externally orchestrated structural adjustment programmes. Collectively, we are one of the most heavily indebted regions in the world, with high rates of unemployment, particularly among our youth. In the aftermath of the global economic and financial crisis, our rates of economic growth have been anaemic at best.

The combustible post-crisis mix of low growth, youth unemployment and fiscal straitjackets has already fuelled global unrest and instability elsewhere, with tremendous negative consequences for international peace and security. SIDS are not immune from that threat. Indeed, the apparent belief that the instability besetting other regions will somehow bypass SIDS is rooted in wishful thinking, neglect and a misplaced faith in the stereotype of islands as paradises populated by carefree carousers. However, that stereotype is belied by facts rooted in low growth, high debt, high unemployment, high murder rates and a lack of fiscal or policy space to engage in transformative social investments. Those facts point to a different and likely outcome of continued multilateral neglect.

The Council's mandate is not simply to restore international peace and security, but to maintain it and to prevent instability, through both military and non-military means. Today's open debate must serve as a wake-up call for a Security Council that all too often has turned its back on the needs and views of SIDS. The Council must formally determine that climate change, transnational crime, non-State actors and economic strangulation pose special and specific threats to peace and security among small island developing States. It must then consider which recommendations and measures are within the scope of its powers. At a minimum, they must encompass restraints on the actions of external State actors and empower SIDS, at an economic and policy level, to confront internal challenges effectively, all the while fully taking on board the Bahamas' very correct caution against the Council usurping the role or authority of existing multilateral bodies that are grappling with those issues in an inclusive and transparent manner.

These issues and those delineated by those who have spoken before me are not academic, nor are they theoretical exercises in divining a laundry list of potential challenges on some distant horizon. They are real, existing and intensifying threats to our peace and security. Our challenges, however, are neither intractable nor insurmountable. They are imminently solvable. Yet all that is needed for those multifaceted threats to become complex and contagious sources of global instability is the inaction of powerful multilateral partners. Today there are over 50 countries, with over 50 million people, that are expecting the Council to fulfil the letter and the spirit of its Charter obligations. Please do not let us down.

The President: I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Dookeran (Trinidad and Tobago): May I join the many others who have commended New Zealand for its ground-breaking and high-level initiative to address peace and security challenges facing small island developing States. We view this debate as a way to further strengthen multilateralism, which is the most crucial vehicle to resolve the peace and security challenges we face. This is an important first step in deepening effective multilateralism, as the absence of it is a threat in itself to peace and security. Trinidad and Tobago will support all initiatives to advance the multilateral engagement that you, Sir, have initiated at the highest level here today at the United Nations.

I also join with my colleagues in commending the Prime Minister of Jamaica for her very comprehensive statement today, as well as my colleagues from the Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for their contributions and for bringing to the fore at this forum some of the critical risks we face in the Caribbean region in relation to the issue of peace and security.

Transnational organized crime and its global networks pose daunting challenges to the security of all States, but especially to small island developing States (SIDS). Small States and large States alike must accept the responsibility and meet their obligations to cooperate in the multilateral arena in addressing those threats. Indeed, transnational organized crime has been identified in the Caribbean Community Crime and Security Strategy as an "immediate, significant threat". Transnational organized crime attacks the functioning of our State institutions, adds new vulnerabilities to our governance mechanisms and fosters instability in the system. In doing so, it undermines the fundamental premises of our democracies, the rule of law, human rights and development itself.

Trinidad and Tobago cannot be a bystander to such destabilizing developments. We have and will continue to join multilateral efforts aimed at repelling the peace and security challenges that not only affect it, but affect all Member States. That is why Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to have co-sponsored resolution 2220 (2015), on concrete measures to counter and eliminate the illicit transfer and misuse of small arms and light weapons. In the same context, we and our Caribbean sister countries outlined our steadfast commitment to the full implementation of a robust and effective Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which is a matter of record.

The ATT offers the promise to address a number of security problems faced by the international community. In order to fully achieve its purpose and objectives, the ATT must become universal and be implemented by all States, whether manufacturers, exporters or importers of conventional arms. The failure of some States to embrace the ATT will serve to continue to facilitate the illegal transfer of arms to SIDS. Available statistics confirm the fact that such illicit trade has a direct linkage to the increased incidence of violence and criminality in the Caribbean region.

As a firm believer in the role of the United Nations in leading the way in resolving major international problems such as terrorism, Trinidad and Tobago co-sponsored resolution 2178 (2014), on foreign terrorist fighters. In keeping with the provisions of that resolution, Trinidad and Tobago will continue to collaborate with other Member States in several areas, such as terrorism financing and exchanging information on the transit of foreign terrorist fighters.

Lasting peace can be achieved only if women are more involved in decision-making processes related to peacebuilding and post-conflict development, which are necessary for the sustainable development of our societies. The empowerment of women is an integral aspect of national development, as well as an essential pillar in the maintenance of peace and security. It is with that conviction that Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago introduced at the General Assembly the first-ever resolution on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. We therefore continue to be a firm believer in devising solutions to peace and security and using the United Nations apparatus where appropriate, but we know it is necessary to go beyond that. That is why, as a newly elected member of the Peacebuilding Commission, we are committed to working with others to support peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict and to add our voice wherever it is appropriate in that respect.

All States have a role to play in designing new additions to the global peace and security architecture. Peace and security is indeed the business of all nations, large and small alike. With that in mind, Trinidad and Tobago offered itself as a location for the secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty. We do so with the confidence that we possess the required infrastructure and other prerequisites to host that important institution. It is our hope that State parties to the ATT will reaffirm the principle of equitable distribution in the location of major global bodies when taking a decision on the siting of that organization.

This open debate on global peace and security has far-reaching possibilities in building consensus on acute social risks facing the issue of security, and with particular reference to the small island developing States, in ushering in a new diplomatic momentum on an effective multilateral approach and in designing concrete instruments, whether in the field of climate change or elsewhere, so as to ensure that we have a safe world and a more secure planet. For all this we are indeed indebted to you, Mr. Murray McCully, as President of the Security Council and to New Zealand, for the leadership you have displayed so far.

The President: I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

Mr. Klimkin (Ukraine): When a vessel or a person is sinking in the ocean an S.O.S. distress call is sent, and it is the moral and legal duty of all others at sea to render immediate assistance to that sinking ship or person, without asking why that has happened to them. Certainly the reasons for the situation are important, but let us agree that they are secondary compared to the life of a single human being. An S.O.S. call is being sent right now from the small island developing States (SIDS) that are losing their territories, populations and resources, and thus their very existence, due to the grave impacts of climate change. It is our common obligation to hear their call and to respond to it without any further delay.

The long-lasting debates on climate change are very important because that is exactly what threatens small island States. These talks should be continued with a view to making a success story of the upcoming summit in Paris. But in those sophisticated debates we should not forget about the lives of hundreds and thousands of our brothers and sisters populating the sinking islands in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans. It is not just a formal political matter of combating climate change: it is a matter of the security of 44 small island nations, a matter of their own very existence. They are being threatened not by guns and missiles. They are being threatened by a much worse enemy — a climate-related natural disaster, a rise of ocean levels caused by climate change. That enemy is no less serious than weapons of mass destruction or genocide. It threatens entire communities and nations, entire countries and regions. We have to take this challenge very seriously before it is too late. We need to put on life vests and act now in order to prevent the catastrophic consequences of the climate change faced by SIDS.

As we all know, the people of Kiribati have already started to leave their sinking lands. The same forced displacement and migration is rapidly approaching others — Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the Maldives. The Security Council should therefore take concrete preventive steps. In order to avoid possible issues and tensions caused by this forced migration and displacement, which can be quite long-lasting, there is an acute need to address the legal status of the people who are forced to leave their homeland owing to the loss of territory caused by ocean-level rise. Given the serious safety and security implications, we should take into account all possible legal and human rights aspects of this phenomenon.

Ukraine stands by the side of SIDS and is committed to the relevant Security Council agenda and elsewhere in the framework of the United Nations and its agencies.

The President: I now give the floor to the Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden.

Ms. Lövin (Sweden): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country, Sweden. I should like to start by thanking Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his briefing and by recognizing the important statements made today by the Prime Ministers of Jamaica and Samoa, and by the Minister of Finance of the Seychelles and other Ministers. I should also like to commend New Zealand for drawing the Security Council's attention to this important issue, and to thank Foreign Minister Mc Cully for presiding over today's open debate.

For far too long, we have assessed security in a too-narrow sense. True security is found through fighting the widening gap between rich and poor countries. True security is found through fighting famine and social ills. True security is found through fighting for the protection of the environment. The responsibility of the international community and of us as States Members of the United Nations is to lead that fight. That is why I decided to come here to be a part of this important debate.

Small island developing States (SIDS) are undeniably among the hardest hit by climate change, and they face unique security challenges. Their very existence is threatened not by tanks, missiles or troops but rather by extreme weather events, marine pollution, rising sea levels and ocean acidification. That was clearly expressed in the landmark SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa) Pathway.

It was evident from the Arria Formula meeting on climate change and security held last month that climate change would inevitably affect access to land, food and economic opportunities, which in turn can drive conflict and forced migration. The Security Council can, and should, play a role in that regard.

Confronting the peace and security challenges of SIDS demands a global response. Allow me to outline eight points that we as Nordic countries believe need to be part of that response.

First, it is without doubt that the effects of global warming are the single most important long-term security challenge affecting SIDS. Hence we need to do our utmost to halt and mitigate the effects of climate change. The Nordic countries will remain steadfast partners of SIDS in that fight. A legally binding agreement at the climate conference in Paris in December is a crucial step towards a safer world.

Second, we need to back up words with action. That is why the Nordic countries have made significant commitments to the new Green Climate Fund. We are also among the largest donors to other multilateral and bilateral climate actions.

Third, we need to understand that sustainable development is not a choice but a necessity for security. This is a top priority for the Nordic Governments, as demonstrated by our prioritization of peace and security aspects of the post-2015 agenda and our emphasizing of the connection with other facets of development.

Fourth, in order to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, we need to integrate climate change mitigation policies, with a particular emphasis on renewable energy, along with energy security and longer-term development programmes. Nordic countries are top supporters of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, and we have several bilateral energy programmes with SIDS in place.

Fifth, we need to support capacity-building and strengthen resilience to severe weather events, natural disasters and conflict due to environmental problems. A lot of work needs to be done to build resilient, quality infrastructure and to plan for an effective emergency response. The Sendai Framework should be a guiding document in that regard.

Sixth, the illicit exploitation of natural resources, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, constitutes yet another challenge. Capacity-building, including capacity to ratify the Food and Agriculture Organization Port State Measures Agreement, is essential to safeguarding food security as well as advancing a blue economy for long-term sustainable development. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea remains the centrepiece framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources.

Seventh, SIDS obviously face numerous other security challenges. I should mention transnational crime, including trafficking in arms, human trafficking, piracy and illicit drug smuggling. Nordic countries have been partners to SIDS for decades through capacity building, including in developing legal frameworks. The implementation of applicable conventions and frameworks, including the Arms Trade Treaty and the SAMOA Pathway, will be essential in order to support and strengthen ongoing efforts.

Finally, an inclusive approach is needed. And civil society, local authorities and the private sector must take part in the dialogue. The full and equal participation of women everywhere must be indisputable — no sustainable peace and development can be achieved if half of the population is excluded.

In conclusion, I am under no illusion that we can find a comprehensive action plan today. But today's open debate serves as a reminder that halting and mitigating the adverse effects of global warming is not simply an environmental issue; it is a security issue. That must be borne in mind when approaching December's crucial climate meeting. I can assure you, Sir, that the Nordic countries will remain a close ally of all SIDS in addressing the complex challenges they are confronted by. We look forward to working together with everyone towards resilient and safe SIDS.

The President: I now give the floor to the Minister of Finance of the Cook Islands.

Mr. Brown: Please allow me, Mr. President, to greet you in my mother tongue of the Cook Islands and say "kia orana". I thank you, Sir, and the members of the Security Council for this opportunity to share the Cook Islands perspective of security and how it relates to our islands and to the broader Pacific islands and the small island developing States family.

If I may, I should like to provide a very brief explanation of the meaning of "kia orana" which I believe encapsulates the spirit of why we are here before the esteemed Council. "kia orana" is how we greet each other and visitors to our islands. Literally it means "may you and your lineage live on". That is a blessing that a Cook Islander will bestow upon those that we come into contact with. That is in essence what we are asking for: to be given the chance by the rest of our global family to live on in our own islands and to guarantee that we can still say "kia orana" long into the future.

We the Pacific islanders are the custodians of 165 million square kilometres of ocean and the last remaining healthy fishery stocks in the world. The Cook Islands is steward to 2.2 million of those square kilometres. That in itself is significant coverage for a small island nation. Despite our best efforts at vigilance in guarding that space, not only for our own good but also for our neighbours and the wider global community, we cannot deny the fact that we are disadvantaged in terms of the readily available resources to police our area as effectively as we desire against transnational crime and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. Nonetheless we are trying.

Fisheries for the Cook Islands — as with the rest of our Pacific family — are a mainstay of our economy. The riches of our ocean are primary resources that we are taking major steps to utilize in a sustainable manner. That is why the Cook Islands has declared its entire exclusive economic zone as the Cook Islands Marine Park. We are certain that the Marine Park will provide the necessary framework to promote sustainable development by balancing economic growth interests such as tourism, fishing and deep-sea mining with conserving core biodiversity and natural assets in the ocean, on our reefs and islands.

The establishment of areas of sustainable management is a trend that is spreading across the Pacific. We are leading the world in marine-resource management, with innovative initiatives such as the regional vessel-monitoring system, ship rider agreements with the United States Coast Guard, the Pacific-wide boat- and aircraft-surveillance Kurukuru programme and our own quadrilateral observation relationship with New Zealand, Australia, the United States and France.

However, those national and regional efforts can be futile without the cooperation of distant-water fishing nations in ensuring compliance with signed agreements. Equally important is the attitude of the international community with regard to our collective Pacific call for stronger control over the high seas and the international waters bordering our respective jurisdictions. The Cook Islands has made significant progress in delineating its maritime boundaries, and is has signed treaties with its neighbours where our borders are shared. It is our belief that, given our experience of illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries, we will be better served with a buffer no-fishing zone between our individual and collective maritime boundaries and international waters.

We have raised that issue at the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and will continue to advocate for it in various settings. We implore the international community to extend its support in advancing stronger measures to ensure the sustainability of our fisheries. Furthermore, I welcome your comments, Mr. President, on encouraging greater returns to Pacific Island countries from their fisheries resources. I look forward to initiatives to improve the fisheries management framework to that end.

We cannot address peace and security without considering the obvious threat of sea-level rise and other adverse impacts caused by climate change. Those impacts range from the serious to the catastrophic. The increasing acidification of the oceans threatens our food and pir economic security. the intensification of cyclones can wipe out decades of infrastructure development progress. Receding shorelines will eventually mean the complete disappearance of islands. We are already experiencing those impacts on our islands.

We cannot stress enough the urgent need for the global community to confront the climate change crisis. We share this world, and the world does not end at our respective borders. Give us a fighting chance against the changing climate. A legally binding agreement must be reached at Paris, one that also takes into account our special case and vulnerabilities as small island developing States. We are engaging with you, Mr. President, and with the Security Council with sincerity. We seek its understanding, and we hope that it will reciprocate with sincerity.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Vedova (Italy): Thanks to the initiative of New Zealand, I am pleased to have this opportunity to intervene today on a crucial topic. I wish to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his briefing, as well as the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica and the Minister of Finance of the Seychelles for their contributions to this important debate.

The challenges affecting small island developing States (SIDS) deserve the attention of the Security Council. Italy, as a peninsula surrounded by the sea, is deeply convinced that those challenges are both specific and global, with wide-ranging consequences that can affect our common security. Helping to improve the food security, sea defences, renewable energy systems, natural risk-management and economic competitiveness of small island developing States is also an opportunity to build a comprehensive and sustainable development model that will also benefit other countries.

Climate change is a key element of the equation. On a national basis, Italy has gathered broad expertise in learning to face natural disasters, floods, soil erosion and rising sea levels. For example, the rising level of the Adriatic Sea poses a risk to the world heritage city of Venice. To address that challenge a highly sophisticated system — called MOSES — has been developed to protect the city from tides that are up to three metres high.

Many other countries face similar challenges, as therefore the international community must stand together in providing needed answers and support. As a follow-up to the 2014 Samoa Conference, I have pleasure in confirming that Italy will host a stock-taking event at ministerial level, which will take place in Milan from 14 to 15 October in connection with EXPO 2015. We look forward to welcoming everyone to that event, which will allow us to assess the progress made by SIDS and donors, monitor the commitments undertaken in Samoa, and connect them to the global debate on food security and nutrition promoted by Italy through the EXPO, whose theme will be "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life". As a founding member and permanent supporter of the Global Island Partnership, Italy will also host the annual Steering Committee meeting of the Global Island Partnership in Turin next October.

Energy is another crucial element of the equation. Renewable energy sources are among the main points of focus of cooperation with Pacific SIDS through the regional environmental partnership that since 2007 we, together with Austria, Luxembourg and Spain, have been supporting financially. The scope of that partnership was expanded recently to include climate-change adaptation. Another programme supported by Italy, and implemented through the International Union for Conservation of Nature, seeks to carry out targeted renewable energy projects in response to the problem of energy dependency.

More recently, we have been developing a cooperation programme to help meet the specific challenges and needs of our Caribbean partners. In early July, we hosted in Italy a specialized training course on illegal financial flows for experts and officers from the Caribbean Community countries. Since the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway recognizes sustainable tourism as an important driver of sustainable economic growth, Italy is financing a World Bank pilot project to strengthen agro-tourism clusters and foster growth prospects in the area.

Finally, I have pleasure in announcing that Italy is launching a new regional cooperation programme in the Caribbean in the field of disaster risk management and rural development. The project will assist local institutions in dealing with disaster risk management and better responding to the evolving needs of farming communities.

It is my privilege to address the Security Council, and I wish to conclude by underlining the importance of ensuring that the voice of small island developing States reaches the Council. Italy attaches great importance to the reform of the Security Council. We share the goal of assuring better representation for certain categories of States, cutting across traditional United Nations regional groups. Small States make up one such category, including small island developing States, whose specific needs and aspirations should be addressed.

The President: I now give the floor to the representatiave of Timor-Leste.

Mr. De Oliveira Soares (Timor-Leste): At the outset, on behalf of the Government of the Democratic

Republic of Timor-Leste, let me congratulate New Zealand on its successful presidency of the Security Council for the month of July, and to convey to you, Sir, our appreciation for convening this important debate.

Timor-Leste emerged from centuries of colonization and occupation, and 13 years ago restored its independence. In that short period, we established our critical State institutions and now enjoy political and security stability. We are very proud of the fact that, in December 2012, the situation in Timor-Leste was removed from the agenda of the Security Council. That reflects the determination of our people and leadership to live in peace and prosperity. And we share our success with the international community and with the United Nations, for which I thank them. On behalf of the Timorese people, I would like in particular to extend our sincere gratitude to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his personal engagement and commitment to our peacebuilding and State-building efforts.

Small island States face multifaceted security challenges. I shall focus on three topics that are of particular interest to Timor-Leste.

First, climate change is a threat multiplier that has the potential to unravel development efforts, exacerbate tensions and lead to conflict. It has an impact on food security and poverty, resource availability, health and access to clean water. The rising sea level is the biggest threat to many countries in the world, particularly small island States. It can lead to loss of territory and is a serious threat to national sovereignty. The pressures of climate change will force populations to leave their homes. That is already happening in some of the small island developing States (SIDS), notably in the Pacific, exacerbating existing problems in already vulnerable islands.

This body issued a Presidential statement in July 2011 (S/PRST/2011/15) that expresses concern that possible adverse effects of climate change may endanger the process of consolidating international peace and security. It is therefore vital that there be globally coordinated actions to tackle such threats. Timor-Leste has adopted a national adaptation programme of action that includes nine priorities. We work closely with our development partners in addressing those priorities, as we are fully conscious that climate change is not merely an environmental issue but is about our security and survival.

My second point is that access to natural resources and the equitable distribution of revenue among the people are paramount to security. That is why we are proud to be at the forefront of the world's best practices in relation to the management of our natural resources. We have put much effort into building our institutional and legal capacity transparently and effectively to manage our extractive industries. We take great pride in complying with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, meaning that every dollar of petroleum revenue is publicly disclosed and matched with records of resources companies.

While our petroleum industry is critical to economic growth, prosperity and capacity development, however, we are also fully aware that where local communities fail to share the benefits of resource exploitation, resources can be a driver of conflict. The Government of Timor-Leste advocates the fundamental principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to safeguard its sovereign rights over our national territory, including our maritime boundaries. We firmly believe in the respect for international law in the peaceful settlement of disputes through multilateral frameworks.

My third point is that, due to their geographic constraints, transnational organized crime poses a serious security risk to island States. Reports indicate that Timor-Leste has been used by organized crime syndicates as a destination and staging area for drug and human trafficking. In that context, our Government has enacted legislation to fight organized crime, and has also created a criminal investigation police unit within our national police that is mandated to fight drug and human trafficking, money laundering and cybercrime. The cross-border nature of this type of crime calls for greater cooperation in the region and globally, especially on information-sharing and capacity-building. In that regard, Timor-Leste actively participates in the Southwest Pacific Dialogue, a forum for dialogue for Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Timor-Leste to exchange views on important issues, namely, regional security.

These issues are transnational in nature. While they affect SIDS in particular, they also have an impact on global peace and security. The international community must therefore pursue ways of addressing these issues in a coordinated and collaborative manner. In that context, in the spirit of solidarity and partnership, Timor-Leste has contributed $38 million for the period 2008 to 2014. The bulk of our financial contribution has been disbursed to assist countries, namely SIDS, affected by natural disasters.

The international community must synchronize actions with courage and determination. In that context, I wish to recognize the presence of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today, as well as his sustained leadership and engagement in seeking solutions to the challenges faced by SIDS. It is critical to highlight the importance of moving beyond political discourse and joint statements. We need to translate our shared visions into concrete actions in addressing the security challenges facing SIDS and the world. Peace, security, global progress and the very future of the peoples of small island States depend on us all. In that regard, let us all stand united as one voice and one action to promote and work together for SIDS, sustainable peace and prosperity.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Maldives.

Mr. Mohamed (Maldives): Twenty-five years ago, 14 island States gathered in the Maldives. Together they decided to work in unity to seek international cooperation to protect the small States of the world from the dangers posed by climate change, global warming and sea-level rise. Today the Republic of Maldives is proud to represent the Alliance of Small Island States, which was born at that meeting. We thank the Government of New Zealand, President of the Security Council for the month of July, for convening this important debate, a debate that signals a true mark of international cooperation towards small island developing States (SIDS).

We hope that this debate will be a beginning that marks a turning point in how the international community, and the Security Council in particular, view peace and security as they relate to the world's small island nations. To be sure, even as a host of crises with profound implications for the work of this body increasingly impact our communities, insufficient attention is paid and resources made available to ensure an effective response. In fact, in our recent SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway document we reaffirmed that peace and security, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and other issues relevant to this body play a crucial role in achieving our sustainable development goals. Peace and security is a prerequisite to health and prosperity. At the same time, the lesson of history is that peace will prevail only when we promote sustainable development practices.

SIDS understand that reality well. For centuries communities in our small islands have promoted practices and values that not only help to protect the fragile ecosystems of the islands, but also promote peace and harmony within and among communities. More recently, SIDS have also taken on important responsibilities in promoting peace and security on the international stage.

We, the SIDS, provide a disproportionate number of peacekeepers to missions throughout the world and host many operations in our own backyards. Yet our voice at the Security Council is vastly underrepresented. For the past 25 years, only six SIDS have served on the Council out of the 125 elected members during that period. That must change.

The smallest in the world, said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Samoa in the past year, are like a magnifying glass — when we look through the lens, we see the vulnerabilities we all face. And the most profound vulnerability we have is climate change. Climate change is humankind's defining challenge. The science is clear that climate change has exacerbated existing problems and causes new ones, including threats to our food and water security, displaced communities, loss of adaptive capacities, ecosystem services and, for some of us, territorial integrity. We have stressed that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change policy should remain the primary forum for climate negotiations. Yet, we have to recognize that climate change is a threat to the survival of humankind, and our response to the threat requires us to redefine the concept of security.

Indeed, the utter devastation seen in the wake of Cyclone Pam, in particular to Vanuatu and other neighbouring countries like the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati, as well as from two recent typhoons, Maysak and Dolphin, which hammered the Federated States of Micronesia, underscores the unique circumstances of life in SIDS. Our small size, geographic isolation and high exposure to impacts like powerful tropical storms and other extremes make it challenging to prepare for disaster before it strikes. More effective programmes for disaster risk reduction must be part of the efforts to build resilient and sustainable island communities.

We are all too aware that we cannot do this on our own. Criminals often exploit the vast oceans off our shores to evade the rule of law on land. While our waters are home to some of the most productive marine habitats in the world, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing also deprives us of the resources on which we depend for our food and income. At the same time, drug dealers and human traffickers increasingly escape detection in these isolated places. Maritime piracy has also been a challenge for some of our countries. Because we have a limited surveillance capacity, we are unable to detect and deter illicit activities that have security implications for the entire international community.

The SIDS are ready to lead. We are an important part of the solution. Vulnerability is a fact in SIDS, yet we refuse to be defined by it. Although we are vulnerable, we also are valuable contributors in proposing global solutions to common problems. Since the acceptance of the first small State in the United Nations nearly five decades ago, SIDS have shown the world that small States are not only viable, but in fact have an extraordinary ability to survive and even thrive in the turbulent global political arena. We have engaged the United Nations on the serious security threats that small States face and proposed a mechanism to address such threats. We have highlighted the links between the dangers of climate change and the full enjoyment of human rights. We continue to show that through genuine and durable partnerships, we can address our challenges and face adversity.

We live in a time of dramatic change and uncertainty. Our pursuit of international peace and security faces new obstacles that will test our resolve at every turn, but we also have the expertise and resources to make the world more secure — in all countries, large and small, on the mainland and in the oceans. We have a significant task before us, one that will require our attention over decades. Let us consider this discussion as the beginning of that effort and commit to doing what is necessary to achieve our common goals.

The President: I now give the floor to the Prime Minister of Aruba, who will speak on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Mr. Eman (Netherlands): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in my capacity as Prime Minister of Aruba. We welcome the initiative of New Zealand to hold this meeting of the Security Council to address the peace and security challenges that small island developing States (SIDS) are facing. We are also very grateful for the briefings given today by the Prime Minister of Samoa, the Prime Minister of Jamaica and our friend the Minister of Finance of Seychelles.

Today's topic is of particular interest to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, since three of the four autonomous countries within the Kingdom — Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten — are in fact SIDS. I am very pleased and take a great interest in representing the voice of small island States both within and outside of the borders of our Kingdom.

Let me ask the Council to take a moment to imagine life in many of the small island developing States. The first image that comes to mind might be that of a tropical paradise, pictures of a small island with palm trees, surrounded by a placid turquoise sea. And yes, that image is entirely correct for Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and many other SIDS. At the same time, even the inhabitants of paradise have to deal with their share of serious challenges. Some of these are local, some are regional and some are global challenges.

When we were at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa, small island States, together with large countries and large corporations, had the opportunity to share the challenges and the permanent handicaps that small island States face. It was very encouraging in Samoa to see how, maybe for the first time, large countries, major institutions and large corporations in a very concrete way committed themselves to working towards the future and the improvement of the quality of life within the SIDS. Let me briefly share with the Council today three of the challenges and some insights on what we can do to respond to challenges facing so many of our small island States.

First, on the effects of climate change, the sheer horror of having to survive an extreme tropical storm is a familiar phenomenon in my region, the Caribbean. We know the storm is coming, and on some islands we know that there is no high ground for escape. Meanwhile, ever higher seas and more powerful cyclones are destroying the little plots of land, one's family home and the local school. In March, the South Pacific witnessed just such a devastating extreme weather event when Cyclone Pam swept through the region.

Climate change affects us all. In the Council today, we have heard from Prime Ministers, Ministers and representatives of countries that not only face devastation from a possible natural disaster, but already know for a fact that within 20 years, 50 years or 60 years, they may not exist any more as an island. That is a dramatic given that we, the Security Council and the United Nations and the world, must deal with. Today, as we look at how climate change affects us already, we know that extreme risks are developing in ways that are very threatening to fragile States, which have fewer resources and the least capacity to cope with them. We need to leave the Chamber with a stronger commitment than when we left the Conference in Samoa to work with these islands. As the Kingdom of the Netherlands, we recognize the need to strengthen resilience to climate fragility risks. That is one of the reasons we are working hard towards the adoption of a new, ambitious, legally binding and global agreement in Paris later this year.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands will convene the first international conference under the them "Planetary security: Peace and cooperation in times of climate change and global environmental challenges", on 2 and 3 November at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The conference will be an annual event aimed at maintaining an ongoing focus on this important topic.

Some may believe that only large nations can effectively fight climate change, but each country, no matter how small, can contribute to the fight against climate change. In Aruba, we are a small country, but we are seeking to transition from fossil fuels by 2020 and to share the lessons we learn with other countries, especially SIDS. We, like many others engaged in this fight, believe that small island nations can be laboratories to demonstrate how this transition can occur in all countries. In Aruba, we view the move to renewable energy as part of a broader vision of shared and sustainable prosperity in which we take strong steps not only to preserve our physical environment for the future and future generations, but also to ensure that our socioeconomic culture and environment prospers as well. Let us not forget that inequality also breeds insecurity.

A second problem for many SIDS is the challenge of transnational crime. Many lack the capacity to patrol the immense waters surrounding our islands. This has a negative impact on our ability to fight transnational crime. The threat posed by criminal networks dealing in drugs and arms can have truly destabilizing effects on our islands. We have combated these threats on Aruba and the other parts of our Kingdom together with the Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard, which patrols a large part of the Caribbean waters to the north-west of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire. Howeverm regional and international cooperation needs to be further strengthened in order to be more effective. Such collaboration helps increase the possibilities for countering transnational crime.

Thirdly, a lack of maritime patrolling capacity can also sustain the illicit exploitation of natural resources, including illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. This can negatively impact the sustainable yield of fish stocks. The damage to unique coral reefs can affect the livelihood of SIDS. That is why a stand-alone sustainable development goal on oceans and seas is important, as it will seek to regulate harvesting and end overfishing, IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices by 2020.

This morning, the Secretary-General called for partnership with SIDS to address current security challenges. That is what the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as a partner for peace, justice and development, hopes to do. Allow me to cite some examples. With Seychelles, we are fighting piracy. With Grenada, we have started cooperation on blue growth and food security. After Cyclone Pam, the Kingdom was among the first countries to provide assistance to Vanuatu and Kiribati. Aruba and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, together with Carbon War Room and the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research, are reaching out to 10 other Caribbean islands to share with them our experience on the path to total energy sustainability.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the interest of the Security Council in SIDS and in the challenges we face. Stronger regional and international collaboration is needed in order to meet the security challenges we encounter in the Caribbean and other regions where SIDS are situated. That is also one of the motivations for the Kingdom of the Netherlands to seek a seat on the Security Council for the 2017-2018 term. We best know our challenges and keep the interests of small and medium-sized countries close to heart. We welcome and encourage further discussions on the international challenges affecting SIDS, now and in the future, with a view to strengthening the solidarity between larger and smaller Members of the United Nations family. We in Aruba have grown in modest nest of six SIDS. When we think of our smaller brothers and sisters — Bonaire, Saba and Saint Eustatius — we feel compassion and a sense of solidarity a responsibility towards them. So too, the larger countries, world institutions and even large corporations should think of small island developing States with the virtuous thought, "I am my brother's keeper".

The President: I now give the floor to the representive of Indonesia.

Mr. Percaya (Indonedia): I thank you, Sir, for organizing this open debate on a very important subject. My delegation also thanks the Secretary-General for his statement and recognizes the presence of high-level representatives of small island developing States (SIDS), including the Prime Minister of Samoa, the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the Minister of Finance of Seychelles.

As a country whose territory includes small islands, Indonesia knows only too well the vulnerabilities of SIDS and many aspects of the security challenges they are facing. As the concept paper (S/2015/543, annex) before us highlights, the vulnerabilities of SIDS are heightened by their remoteness, narrow resource, economic and export bases, limited capacities and finances. Furthermore, the impact of climate change, along with sea-level rise and other challenges such as piracy, organized crime, illicit exploitation of natural resources and illegal fishing, with inadequate capacity to monitor exclusive economic zones, present major problems affecting the security and stability of SIDS.

Without a doubt, SIDS face serious challenges in the field of peace and security. In this interconnected world, the security challenges faced by SIDS may have an impact on regional and even global security and stability. My delegation therefore believes that it is only logical that the security issues relating to the specific situation faced by SIDS should be an integral part of our collective efforts to promote global peace and security. Indeed, SIDS should be equal partners in our collective efforts in the field of peace and security.

The security perspective of SIDS requires our Organization, including the Security Council, to broaden its approach to dealing with international peace and security. Our Organization must continue to develop strategies that are integrated and better coordinated among its various organs in dealing with security and sustainable development in a mutually reinforcing way.

Indonesia attaches great importance to many areas relevant to tackling security challenges faced by SIDS, including maritime conservation, illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries, and disaster-risk reduction management through a reinvigorated maritime policy and mainstreaming it into the national planning programmes. My delegation is of the view that security issues related to SIDS are closely related to development challenges. Therefore, if issues like poverty, unemployment, climate-change adaptation measures and institution building in SIDS are not addressed effectively, opportunities for resentment, instability and conflict will arise. We must not let that happen.

In that context, we should continue to enhance our cooperation with SIDS in the Pacific through bilateral and regional platforms. The United Nations and the international community should support SIDS in a strengthened, more comprehensive and sustained manner. The post-2015 development agenda must therefore provide robust and tangible means of implementation for SIDS to clearly reflect this intention. It is also vital for SIDS to get their resource requirements adequately met by the relevant regional and international financial institutions since their small economies may face a greater number of issues in obtaining financing through purely market-based mechanisms.

Taking urgent action to mitigate climate change is a global necessity vital to responding to the security challenges for SIDS. Many SIDS have already confronted dangerous floods and natural disasters as a result of climate change and lost hard-won development gains. There must not be any illusion in this regard: the deterioration of quality of life on the planet will lead to chaos. Therefore, a central pressing task in the climate response would be to better integrate disaster risk reduction in the development framework.

In this regard, my delegation reaffirms the significance of the United Nations as the universal forum for providing a common platform to strengthen international cooperation in promoting sustainable development that increasingly takes into account the specific needs and challenges of SIDS. My delegation also reiterates the importance of the ongoing collective endeavours within the United Nations to strengthen international cooperation, coordination and coherence in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the unmet Millennium

Development Goals and the future post-2015 development agenda.

In conclusion, my delegation hopes that today's debate will assist the Security Council in further integrating the SIDS perspective on peace and security into its work and provide a platform for the international community to identify further practical and coherent steps to take in supporting SIDS as they tackle the specific challenges within their national efforts to promote sustainable development, peace and stability. My delegation would like to underscore the necessity for all of the entities within and outside the United Nations, including all countries, to work together with greater common purpose and cooperation to engender peace, security and prosperity for everyone.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Tonga.

Mr. Tupouniua (Tonga): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 12 members of the group of Pacific small island developing States with a presence at the United Nations, namely, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and my own country, Tonga.

At the outset, allow me on behalf of our group to thank you, Mr. President, and New Zealand, for convening this very timely and important debate on issues related to peace and security in the Pacific SIDS and SIDS generally. We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Mr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Foreign Secretary of the Republic of Maldives and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States.

In this day and age, with all its complicated, interrelated and enmeshed political, social, environmental and economic realities, how can we define international peace and security? Certainly today's realities are far from those that the founders of this body faced in 1945. Security issues were defined traditionally in terms of the scourge of war between States. The issue of what causes war was and still is the major question that defines the purpose of the Security Council.

Seventy years later, however, we must ask whether the traditional definition of security, upon which the Council was founded, is still appropriate for application today? Should this traditional concept of security alone continue to define the present day actions of the Council? Many have argued that it should not, and that is why other organs of the United Nations are looking to renew themselves so as to ensure that the whole body is fit for purpose for today's realities. In that regard, we may ponder whether the Security Council today is likewise fit for purpose, by way of maintaining its usage of traditional security approaches to prevent, or dare I say, cure the problems of global peace and security today. Can the traditional definition of security still suffice to answer the question of what causes war?

The root causes of the difficulties in maintaining international peace and security are no longer drawn from traditional definitions of security, as those root causes have evolved over the years into what might be considered non-traditional causes. The lines are blurred between the traditional realpolitik of the past and today's more complex notions of non-traditional definitions of security, all of which contributes, in a multitude of complicated ways, to making the Council's duty to the world a more difficult one. Questions of sustainable development or the lack thereof are root causes of the failure to maintain peace and security. Furthermore, the failure to maintain peace and security is a root cause for the absence of sustainable development. The Council must look at issues of international peace and security through the lens of the present tense by redefining its understanding of security to be in line with today's realities, as non-traditional causes of the difficulties in maintaining peace and security are plentiful.

That having been said, the Pacific SIDS have observed that, over time, the Council has shown that non-traditional security dimensions beyond traditional military-type threats to peace and security do have a place in the Council. Indeed, through resolution 1308 (2000) on HIV/AIDS, the Council for the first time unanimously agreed to allow a non-traditional threat to peace and security to be part and parcel of its work. The coincidence of this unprecedented decision with the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Council, as well as with the advent of the new millennium, may have facilitated the realization that the scourge of that health issue at the time, which had been devastating populations beyond national borders years before the adoption of the historic resolution, was in fact a threat to international peace and security even if it went beyond the traditional definitions that the Council had previously used. At that time, the spread of HIV/AIDS was having a heavy impact on society and was leading to an aggravated lack of security that could give way to instability and emergency situations if left unchecked.

A very good precedent was set, and the Council followed that precedent when, last year, the Ebola crisis was addressed within these walls.

In 2007, these same walls heard another conversation on a non-traditional threat to international peace and security, namely, climate change. Unfortunately, the Council found itself unwilling or unable to take on this issue through a unanimously agreed approach. That also occurred in 2013, despite the fact that Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations established the prime importance of respecting the territorial integrity of States by setting forth the obligation of all States to refrain from threatening another State's territorial integrity. Human-induced climate change is doing exactly that, however — undermining our territorial integrity.

Pacific island leaders have been continually calling for the political will and ambitious actions necessary to address the adverse impacts of climate change. The evidence is clear and present today in our region, and it has very real implications for the rest of the world. I would reiterate that the Pacific SIDS call for the immediate appointment of a special representative on climate and security with responsibility for analysing projected security impacts of climate change so that the Council and all Member States can prepare for the unavoidable threats to their security that lie ahead. Moreover, we are of the view that the Council should request an assessment of the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to those impacts, in order to be able to assure us that it is up to the task.

Like the severity of the health crisis caused by HIV/AIDS, especially in Africa, but with clear and direct implications on a global scale, we are able to see direct correlations between both of these non-traditional threats to the maintenance of international peace and security. Since both are threat multipliers, they are equally important as root causes of threats to international peace and security that should be on the Council's agenda. Thankfully and rightly, the health issue has been recognized. The Pacific SIDS submit that the issue of climate change should be considered in the same way. Both have global implications, both have a heavy negative impact on society and both can lead to instability and emergency situations if left unchecked.

Finally, last year the Secretary-General mentioned that the Pacific SIDS are like a microcosm of the world as a whole, in which we can see the vulnerabilities and threats that we all face from the effects of climate change. Climate change is cross-cutting, and therefore all the major organs of the United Nations have a role to play in dealing with it through their own mandates, as they have done with regard to the non-traditional security threat of HIV/AIDS in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and in the Security Council Chamber.

I would therefore like to conclude by saying that we, the Pacific SIDS, submit our experiences and realities to the Council in asking it to consider this non-traditional security threat of climate change as one that merits the Council's attention not just today, but in an ongoing, dedicated space in our Organization that can ensure that the threats posed by climate change to our islands, our peoples and indeed our shared world are adequately addressed so that the Council is able to carry out the task of maintaining international peace and security that we have entrusted to it.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Palau.

Mr. Otto (Palau): Palau would like to congratulate New Zealand on its presidency of the Security Council for the month of July and to thank it for convening this important open debate on the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS).

We would like to acknowledge the presence of the leaders who have come from all the capitals of the SIDS countries for this important event. We associate ourselves with the statements delivered by the representative of Tonga, on behalf of the Pacific SIDS, and by the Foreign Secretary of the Maldives, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, to which I would like to add this statement in my national capacity.

Palau shares all the issues discussed by the leaders who have spoken today, ranging from issues of governance such as money-laundering and illicit financial flows to syndicate criminal activities. We have our share of trafficking and drug use, of non-communicable diseases and HIV/AIDS. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing continues unabated, bringing the risk of food insecurity.

All of those problems have the potential to destabilize and bring unrest to our communities, but the one we wish to see on the Security Council's agenda is the impact of climate change, because it deserves to be addressed here and now. When whole nations are swallowed by the sea, there is potential for unrest. When an entire population is forced to migrate or become refugees, either as one group in one place or several groups in several places, peace becomes elusive and the potential for unrest and conflict becomes real. Palau has low-lying atoll islands that are at risk of being swallowed by rising sea levels and are in that category, with the potential for the absence of peace and the presence of conflict.

We therefore join our leaders in urging the Security Council to consider the impact of climate change as a real threat to peace and security that it should address by adding it to its agenda now, as we heard the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the Minister of International Development Cooperation of Sweden advocate earlier. Additionally, the Council can continue to encourage all Member States to arrive at a strong, legally binding agreement on climate change in Paris, as we have heard many members say today, including the representative of the Netherlands just a few minutes ago.

To summarize, as the concept note (S/2015/543, annex) says, understanding the role that the Council and the United Nations system can play in working with small island developing States to address these challenges will be important to preventing future conflicts and maintaining international peace and security. Palau urges the Security Council to put the threat that climate change poses to small island States' peace and security on its agenda.

Before I leave, I would like to emphasize that peace and security are important to Palau and, small as we are, we do participate in international peacekeeping activities in the Sudan and Darfur. As Members of the United Nations community, we will continue to do our part to ensure that peace and good mental health and well-being will continue for all people all over the world. Finally, we would like to thank the Security Council, as well as all of our partners, for their work and assistance, as well as for the further assistance commitments that were made today.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to join those who have preceded me in congratulating the New Zealand presidency on convening today's open debate, which is clear evidence, based on what we have heard, of its timeliness and of the severity of the problems facing small island developing States (SIDS).

For my country, this group of 52 States and territories — 23 of which are in the Caribbean Sea region, to which Colombia, with a coastline more than 1,600 kilometres long, also belongs — are very important and in urgent need of solutions to their problems. Of the challenges that were discussed so eloquently by the Minister of Finance of Seychelles and the Prime Ministers of Jamaica and Samoa, I will focus on two that are particularly significant for Colombia: transnational organized crime and climate change.

Colombia, perhaps unlike any other nation in our region, has been dealing for decades with transnational organized crime, at an enormous cost in lives and resources. In that struggle, however, we have learned lessons that have enabled us to design a comprehensive international strategy for security cooperation that we have shared in particular with our Caribbean neighbours through advice, technical assistance, education and training on anti-narcotics intelligence in order to fight transnational organized crime, as well as in helping to combat the global drug problem, which, as we have heard today, has had tragic effects on SIDS, particularly our neighbours in the region. It is in that spirit of cooperation that we are now able to announce that, in September in Cartagena de Indias, we will be hosting a third Caribbean seminar on combating drugs, with representatives from 16 countries.

We have also signed cooperation agreements with 14 countries in the region aimed at strengthening national capacities at the operational level that will enable us to work together, with better tools, in order to tackle potential threats to our security and that of our citizens. Perhaps one of the most effective mechanisms has been the creation and strengthening of strategic alliances, in partnership with countries such as Canada and the United States, that have enabled us to develop triangular and South-South cooperative relationships, as others have also mentioned, in order to create safer societies in the countries of the Caribbean.

Secondly, I would like to refer to the threat posed by climate change. Disasters caused by extreme natural phenomena linked to climate change have the potential to devastate Caribbean States and therefore the economic stability and security of our entire region. A single tropical storm can destroy the infrastructure of an entire country and retard gross domestic product growth for several years, thus significantly disrupting its development growth and the region's development path.

Colombia has fallen victim to this phenomenon and therefore understands the extreme circumstances facing neighbouring SIDS, as so rightly stated in your concept note (S/2015/543, annex), Mr. President, in which you say that:

> "Tackling climate change is not, on its own, sufficient to eliminate all the challenges that small island developing States are facing, but failure to act on climate change will undoubtedly make their future less secure."

This, of course, will threaten the stability of our region and of the entire planet. That is why the Security Council must play a role in the cases of conflict that are already on its agenda, which can only be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, specifically through humanitarian protection measures.

I am sure with the definition of a new post-2015 sustainable development agenda, and with the opportunity to adopt a legally binding agreement at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Conference to be held in December, as well as the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, to be held here in New York in April 2016, as mentioned by the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, we shall forge ahead in building more prosperous societies while tackling the drivers of insecurity for all States of the world, but especially for the small island developing States.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Estonia.

Ms. Lind (Estonia): First of all, I would like sincerely to thank New Zealand for having convened this important meeting, for the first time. I would also like to express my gratitude for all of the presentations made this morning.

Estonia aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union.

We are all well aware that natural disasters and development issues such as the scarce resources, remoteness, limited administrative capacity and disadvantaged economies that small island developing States (SIDS) are facing can pose serious threats to peace and security not only in those countries, but even in a wider context, both regional and global. These threats include tensions caused by political, social and economic instability, humanitarian crises, risks related to migration and transnational organized crime.

One of the greatest challenges for SIDS, of course, is climate change, which generates sea-level rise and increasingly intense natural disasters, as was recently demonstrated by Cyclone Pam, which recently struck Vanuatu and Tuvalu. Estonia was one of the first to contribute to UNICEF in response to the most critical needs of the children and families affected by the disaster in both countries. In this context, we also welcome the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which includes reference to the vulnerabilities of SIDS.

As was also discussed in the recent Arria Formula meeting, climate change can be a driver for various types of insecurity and crises, both internally and globally. It is a matter of utmost importance that a global, ambitious, single, legally binding agreement on climate change,

applicable to all, be concluded this year in Paris. Estonia has always been a strong proponent of safeguarding international law, and we also think that the obligations undertaken by the international community to fulfil the objectives of tackling climate change must be taken extremely seriously. Estonia has also decided to contribute €1 million to the Green Climate Fund in the years 2015-2016.

Last year, Estonia was glad to be present at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia, and to be part of the adoption of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) and the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of SIDS. It recognized, as a core theme, that genuine and durable partnerships and international cooperation are essential for the mitigation of the risks of climate change and other challenges of those island countries. In Apia, nearly 300 partnerships were announced, and now it is crucial to implement them.

Estonia has made a long-term commitment to partnering with SIDS countries. We have contributed to the project aiming to provide and improve satellite Internet connectivity in remote and vulnerable areas in the Pacific small island States. While information and communication technologies solutions have proved to be one of the most powerful promoters of development, especially in remote areas, the other side of the coin is security. Among other threats, SIDS are also susceptible to cybercrime and cyberattacks. Therefore, we have extended our cooperation with SIDS to the field of cybersecurity, inter alia in cooperation with the Organization of American States, in several Caribbean countries such as Dominica, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Finally, we hope that today's debate will not remain the only one on the subject. The Security Council's involvement is essential in the maintenance of peace and sustainable development in the small island developing States. And vice versa, in order to better accomplish that aim, a stronger voice of the small nations in the Council is vital. We therefore hope that the SIDS countries will be adequately represented in the Security Council in the near future.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Mayr-Harting: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

I would first like to thank you, Mr. President, and New Zealand for having organized this very important debate. We thank the Secretary-General for his briefing. We would also like to acknowledge the important contributions by the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica and the Minister of Finance of Seychelles in sharing their perspectives on the peace and security challenges faced by small island developing States (SIDS). We welcome the participation of so many high-ranking dignitaries from Member States: the President of Kiribati, Ministers, the Prime Minister of Aruba, the Premier of Niue and their respective statements.

We welcome, as I said earlier, the initiative by New Zealand to convene this meeting. The security challenges facing SIDS demonstrate the complex interlinkages between stability, security and global challenges. Our discussion should consider both independent States and those overseas territories administered by other States, including some EU member States, which face a common set of problems.

The unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS have been consistently acknowledged by the international community, most recently at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa last September, to which the previous speaker just referred. It is clear that the vulnerabilities arising from small size and remoteness, weak capacity and exposure to natural disasters can have [illegible] impact on stability and in some cases pose security challenges.

The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway), agreed in Samoa last year, acknowledges SIDS' unique and particular vulnerabilities while offering many tools to address them. In helping implement the Pathway, the international community, including through the strong partnership between the European Union and SIDS, will continue to deliver on the promise of sustainable development through an integrated, balanced and rights-based approach.

Many SIDS continue to be dramatically affected by natural and other disasters, leading to loss of life and livelihoods and significant economic, social and environmental costs. Most recently, Cyclone Pam showed us the dramatic impact of a natural disaster on development and human security, in particular when combined with remoteness and geographical specificities. The Sendai Framework firmly anchors risk management as a key element of sustainable development and takes into account SIDS' vulnerabilities. The European Union is thus reorienting its support to make resilience a priority in cooperation with those countries most vulnerable to natural disasters, and will work with SIDS to better integrate risk management and resilience into their policies and strategies.

We must continue our efforts to avoid the negative impact of climate change, which is not only threatening the survival of some SIDS, but is also challenging their access to key resources, such as water or fisheries. The recent the Arria Formula meeting of the Security Council, initiated by Spain, on the role of climate change as a threat multiplier for global security acknowledged that climate change triggers humanitarian crises, as well as political and economic instability and climate-induced migration. Shrinking natural resources may exacerbate tensions and potentially lead to conflict and, in turn, to displacement.

It is in this context that the European Union and SIDS will continue to work towards the shared objective of addressing climate change at the global level. The moment to act ambitiously is now. We need to get a universal, fair, ambitious and balanced legally binding international climate agreement in Paris later this year. An agreement that ensures that the world remains on track to keep global warming below 2°C is fundamental in order to limit the risks predicted by science, of which SIDS would be — or I should say already are — the first victims. We would also welcome an update of the Secretary-General's 2009 report on climate change and its possible security implications (A/64/350).

The New Zealand presidency has rightly pointed out in its concept note (S/2015/543, annex) that SIDS are also affected by piracy and the trafficking of drugs, small arms and persons. Law enforcement agencies within SIDS often lack the capabilities and resources needed to address those challenges and the corruption that drives, enables and perpetuates criminality. Crime and security are a joint priority area of cooperation between the European Union and the Caribbean region that constitutes a successful area of partnership in the Indian Ocean. We closely cooperate with the Caribbean nations in the fight against drug trafficking and international criminal networks. In order to support the region's efforts to increase security, governance and the rule of law, the European Union adopted in July 2014 a comprehensive citizen security strategy for the Caribbean and Central America. The action plan for the strategy, adopted on 8 June, focuses on building international cooperation and a shared political agenda for citizen security, strengthening the ability of Governments to deliver quality public services in the area of security through capacity-building.

Security and the economic development of SIDS are also impacted by the illicit exploitation of natural resources, in particular fisheries. It remains crucial to implement existing international commitments that strengthen oceans governance rules, notably in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Moreover, the European Union is cooperating with a number of SIDS in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by promoting measures to prevent, deter and eliminate those phenomena, strengthening legal frameworks and fisheries management plans, and promoting improved fisheries management and the sustainable management of fishing resources. The European Union has concluded sustainable fisheries partnership agreements with seven SIDS and has renewed or reinforced cooperation in this area in the Pacific Ocean. We plan to extend existing programmes to West Africa, benefiting SIDS there.

In conclusion, all of the aforementioned security risks and vulnerabilities are interrelated, which constitutes in itself an additional threat to stability and must be addressed in a comprehensive and collaborative way. These risks and vulnerabilities equally require the involvement of all actors and concerned stakeholders. The European Union remains a strong advocate of effective multilateralism and is committed to helping SIDS overcome their vulnerabilities and challenges.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Singapore.

Ms. Tan (Singapore): We join others in expressing our appreciation to New Zealand for giving attention to issues important to small island developing States (SIDS) by hosting this open debate on peace and security challenges.

Singapore was privileged to have worked closely with New Zealand to shepherd the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in Apia in September 2014. The vulnerabilities faced by SIDS can often accentuate many of the challenges that are common to all nations. A major preoccupation of SIDS is dealing with the adverse impacts of climate change, which besides being an existential threat in itself, has a multiplier effect on non-traditional security threats.

High degrees of climate change pose enormous risks to national and international security. Climate change impacts could also indirectly lead to transboundary issues like pollution and an increased risk of terrorism if States fail, and higher temperatures can accelerate the spread of some diseases to epidemic proportions. In terms of disaster-risk reduction and relief, the capacity of the international community for humanitarian assistance is already at full stretch and could be overwhelmed. The role played by climate change in exacerbating such non-traditional security threats should therefore not be ignored.

The risks related to climate change are clear and present to many. A recent Pew Research Center survey, measuring perceptions of international challenges, showed global climate change as the top threat perceived by countries in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. A sizeable portion of the 45,000 persons surveyed in 40 nations cited climate change as their biggest worry — of greater concern than the threat of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham — making it the most widespread concern of any issue included in the survey. The sense of urgency reflected in those recent reports is something that SIDS have long been preoccupied with, because SIDS have to cope with these matters in every aspect of planning and development at the national level.

As we anticipate a new global agreement on climate change at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December, the urgent need to help SIDS adapt to the impacts of climate change should be seen through the lens of those non-traditional security implications. Climate change can be a threat multiplier, and the quest to reduce the vulnerability and increase the resilience of SIDS takes on additional dimensions of urgency.

The Samoa Pathway recognizes that sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose a significant risk to the efforts of SIDS to achieve sustainable development. For instance, climate change implications tied in with other threats could lead to the displacement of populations and conflict over resources due to food and water scarcity. The Samoa Pathway reaffirmed that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of such unique and particular vulnerabilities. The document identifies direct responses to a host of challenges to which SIDS would be particularly vulnerable, with concrete modalities of action to tackle disaster-risk reduction, food and energy security, as well as water and sanitation, among others. Addressing such challenges effectively will help each of the SIDS manage its overall resilience to climate change and reduce non-traditional threats to peace and security.

International support for adaptation efforts lags behind support for mitigation actions, yet many SIDS undertake adaptation actions with domestic resources, at significant opportunity costs to other development priorities. The truth of the matter is that tackling these challenges is an existential issue for SIDS. We have no choice but to undertake adaptation efforts to increase resilience, reduce vulnerability, and avoid loss and damage. We need to do so whether there is a global climate agreement or not.

In that respect, some of the actions identified in the Samoa Pathway can make a qualitative difference at the national level. Examples include improving the baseline monitoring of island systems and the downscaling of climate model projections, which would help to enable better projections of future impacts on small islands. To increase human and environmental resilience to the longer-term impacts of climate change, continued support is needed to raise awareness of and communication about climate change risks, including through public dialogue with local communities.

Also, SIDS seek to achieve, first, sustainable energy goals through better energy efficiencies and sustainable energy systems, including an integrated approach to establishing and strengthening innovative energy road maps; secondly, disaster risk-reduction goals through early warning systems, better risk assessment and data collection, as well as contingency planning for better disaster preparedness and response; and thirdly, greater food security and nutrition by promoting open and efficient international and domestic markets and enhancing international cooperation to maintain access to global food markets, particularly during periods of high volatility in commodity prices. Such actions can contribute directly to the reduction of vulnerability, the enhancement of resilience and the reduction of non-traditional security threats.

Singapore is committed to helping our fellow SIDS in building capacity to take such action. At the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia, Singapore launched a three-year technical cooperation package dedicated to SIDS that includes customized programmes in areas such as climate change, sustainable development and disaster management. In collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, we will also conduct a specialized training course for SIDS, in October, on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (General Assembly resolution 69/283), including climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

The adaptation objectives that SIDS have been championing are not empty demands being made during negotiations. They are real needs. The design and implementation of climate change adaptation measures must be appropriate to the respective vulnerabilities and national circumstances if they are to be truly able to safeguard our security. This debate at the level of the Security Council is therefore very welcome in drawing attention to the need for greater support for the ongoing efforts of SIDS.

The global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation on the part of all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response. We need genuine and durable partnerships that harness the full potential of engagement among Governments at all levels. Businesses, civil society and a wide range of other national and regional stakeholders can also play important roles in helping SIDS better mainstream adaptation needs as we advance sustainable development.

In closing, we once again thank New Zealand for its leadership in providing the opportunity to bring these pertinent issues to the fore at this open debate.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Ms. Bird (Australia): Let me, too, acknowledge the many high-level participants that have come here today, in particular those from small island developing States (SIDS), including from our Pacific family, to take part in this meeting of the Security Council. We, too, commend New Zealand for convening today's debate. The participation of a large number of small island developing States at the ministerial level demonstrates the importance of this issue and underscores the value of this Security Council meeting.

To Australia, as an Indo-Pacific country surrounded by SIDS, the vulnerabilities and challenges facing our SIDS partners are all too clear. The adoption of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in September 2014 was a landmark outcome that recognized that crime and violence, conflict, piracy and trafficking adversely impact the peace of SIDS. It underlined the importance of supporting SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships.

Experience shows us that the international community can make practical contributions towards ensuring the peace and prosperity of SIDS. But it requires an integrated approach to building resilience in support of peace and security, sustainable development and human rights. We see several important elements, including, first, securing global commitments and cooperation to address challenges faced by SIDS, for example by acceding to and implementing the global agreements that are fundamental to improving security for SIDS, such as the Arms Trade Treaty — as called for today by many of the Ministers from the Caribbean.

Bold commitments are needed and action to reduce emissions, including a strong new climate agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, greater and more effective investment in adaptation and resilience, and an update to the Secretary-General's 2009 report on climate change and its possible security implications (A/64/350), and the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (General Assembly resolution 69/283) and the sustainable development goals, especially goal 16, on peaceful societies, and goal 14, on oceans.

Secondly, regional partnerships must be supported to help SIDS pool resources and build capacity. For example, the Pacific Transnational Crime Network has disrupted drugs, firearms and wildlife trafficking throughout the region. The Pacific Patrol Boat Programme, involving a network of patrol boats and Australian naval advisers, has strengthened surveillance to protect fisheries and tackle crime. This month, Pacific Foreign Ministers agreed to strengthen regional disaster response capacities by committing to a number of concrete actions, including improving pre-positioning of emergency supplies and investing in multihazard early warning systems.

Thirdly, capacity-building efforts in support of peace and security are important. Member States should continue to build institutional capacity in governance, law and justice and natural resources management and resilience, including through scholarships and technical and vocational training. In addition and throughout all of that, gender equality is essential to peace and security. Support for SIDS should actively engage women.

The Security Council and Member States can also take practical steps to help SIDS implement Security Council obligations, including by engaging regional organizations. For example, Australian support for the Caribbean Community Regional Coordinator over the past year has strengthened non-proliferation and counter-terrorism capacities in the Caribbean. Australia will continue to work with our neighbours, the international community and the United Nations system as a whole, to support the peace and security of SIDS.

Let me conclude by again thanking New Zealand for convening this important debate and for the contributions made today by so many ministers from so many SIDS capitals. Their experience and contributions have enriched today's debate.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil): I thank you, Sir, for convening this debate. I am also grateful to the Secretary-General and to the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica, as well as Minister Adam, for their presentations.

Small island developing States (SIDS) play a valuable and increasingly distinct and active role in fostering international peace and security. They provide troops to peacekeeping operations across the world, support vital initiatives to counter the trafficking of small arms and light weapons, and seek to advance the multilateral agendas of peacebuilding, conflict prevention and nuclear disarmament, among others. Those countries also face particular social, economic and security vulnerabilities that are linked to their unique geography, as the concept note authored by New Zealand (S/2015/543, annex) correctly points out. Understanding and facing those specific concerns is a collective responsibility. Brazil is proud to cooperate with many SIDS on an array of issues that assist in their sustainable development.

Transnational organized crime and, in particular, the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons are a source of insecurity for many small island developing States, which are often unable to effectively patrol their territories, airspace and exclusive economic zones. International cooperation and coordination of initiatives on the ground should be the preferred answer in that regard. While we recognize the human suffering caused by the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons into many SIDS, it is important to also acknowledge that not all illicit cross-border trafficking represents a threat to international peace and security.

The Security Council can play a role in countering the dissemination of armaments and ammunition in conflict or post-conflict situations, including through sanctions. It is important, nevertheless, not to lose sight of the distinction between situations that may threaten international peace and security from those that pertain to public security. Discussions on small arms and light weapons in domestic contexts should be addressed by the General Assembly, in particular within the framework of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Brazil expects that the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, by favouring stricter arms-export control systems, will have a healthy impact on the levels of violence experienced by some small island developing States. We urge all States to sign and ratify it.

The challenge faced by small island developing States regarding the illicit exploitation of their natural resources should be addressed by strengthening national ownership and the State institutions needed to bolster national oversight and develop adequate policies regarding natural resources. National ownership and sovereignty are strong antidotes against the use of natural resources as fuel for conflicts.

Brazil acknowledges the serious hazards posed by climate change to many small island developing States, whose long-term survival may be endangered by rising sea levels, desertification, extreme weather events and cataclysmic natural disasters. We express our full solidarity with these nations and continue to stand ready to cooperate with them in seeking answers to their specific needs.

Yet, as several delegations stressed during a recent Arria Formula informal debate of the Council, the issue of climate change cannot be properly understood, let alone resolved, from a security-based perspective. The Security Council lacks the tools, the expertise, the representation and the legitimacy to deal with the economic, social, environmental, humanitarian, scientific and technological aspects of this global debate. Instead of debating climate change in a forum where the SIDS themselves are seldom represented, we should seek solutions to this real problem in the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), where the voice of SIDS has acquired increased resonance.

Climate change cannot be considered a threat to international peace and security per se or a "threat multiplier". Instead, it is the foremost sustainable development challenge of our times. Of special relevance for developing countries, and particularly for small island developing States, is the need for adequate resources for adaptation measures. Brazil is convinced that the most effective way to address the legitimate concerns of small island developing States on climate change is to renew our efforts towards an ambitious agreement under the Convention, that is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities. Brazil expects such an outcome to be reached at COP 21 in Paris, and will continue to play a constructive role in this regard.

Let me reiterate, in conclusion, Brazil's confidence that with capacity-building, enhanced international cooperation and the strengthening of national institutions, small island developing States will be able to confront environmental and natural hazards and other challenges they face. Brazil will remain engaged with small island developing States at the bilateral, regional and international levels in order to cooperate and promote their development and security.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Luxembourg.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): Luxembourg fully endorses the statement made by the observer of the European Union. Let me make a few additional comments in my national capacity.

We thank New Zealand for organizing this open debate, which allows the Security Council to address an important topic — the threats to peace and security faced by the small island developing States. The briefing of the Secretary-General and the statements made by the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica and the Minister of Finance of Seychelles highlighted the fact that small island developing States face special challenges in terms of peace and security. The international community must help these countries to overcome these challenges.

There is no doubt that, because of their size and their geographical location, small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to the activities of transnational organized crime networks, be it trafficking in drugs, human beings or small arms and light weapons, or piracy. It is also obvious that small island developing States are among the first affected by the effects of climate change. Sea-level rise threatens the very existence of these States and the security and well-being of their populations; it may result in the loss of territory, thereby undermining the territorial integrity of small island developing States.

Who could have imagined 70 years ago, when the Charter of the United Nations was adopted, that the principle of territorial integrity — an essential principle of international relations — could be endangered by the effects of climate change? The challenge is real. It can lead to the displacement of populations and migration flows that may be the source of tensions if they are not well anticipated, prepared and managed. The international community cannot remain idle in the face of this reality.

The best long-term response we can make to the threats posed to small island developing States by climate change will be to conclude in Paris in December a legally binding and dynamic agreement, enjoying global participation, to maintain global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. Luxembourg, as President of the Council of the European Union, will spare no effort to contribute to the conclusion of such an agreement at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Our Minister of the Environment reaffirmed that commitment at the Arria Formula meeting organized on 30 June by Spain and Malaysia on the theme of climate change as a multiplier of threats to global security.

In the Security Council, we continue to advocate, as we did during our recent term as an elected member, for the Council to take the implications of climate change into account in order to better address the root causes of conflict in the framework of conflict prevention. In our view, it would be useful in this context for the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the multiplication of threats to small island developing States in particular.

Security and development are intrinsically linked. In contributing to the security and progress of small island developing States, Luxembourg is strongly committed to their cause. In that regard, we support Cabo Verde, one of Luxembourg's main cooperation partners in the social sectors and in the field of renewable energy. Luxembourg has supported the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia by deploying maritime patrol aircraft based in Seychelles. We have made our expertise in the field of satellite communications available to States in the Caribbean region in order to strengthen their capacity to respond to natural disasters. We also support a multilateral regional programme that helps Pacific small island developing States to develop renewable energy and adapt to climate change.

Luxembourg, as a small State itself, will remain in solidarity with small island developing States.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Solomon Islands.

Mr. Beck (Solomon Islands): At the outset, let me join others in congratulating New Zealand on its accession to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. I also join others in thanking New

Zealand for convening this open debate on the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS).

Given the time limit, I will restrict myself to speaking on climate change, which for SIDS remains a multiplier of threats to international peace and security.

This open debate is being held at a time when global warming is altering the face and balance of our fragile planetary system. Water and land are becoming scarce, triggering climate-induced migratory patterns. Floods, disease and famine have intensified competition for basic needs. In other words, climate change is dividing populations and creating poverty that is not only causing instability but also aggravating existing threats.

All these outcomes have been recognized at previous Council debates, going as far back as 2007, when the United Kingdom first brought the issue of the security implications of climate change to the Council (see S/PV.5663). Since then, nothing has changed for SIDS. SIDS continue to face the brunt of climate change, and the situation has worsened.

Against that backdrop, Solomon Islands does not think that this debate is about increasing the Council's understanding of the security implications of climate change; we have already established that. SIDS vulnerability and special situation are also well documented in the 21-year-old Barbados Programme of Action, the 10-year-old Mauritius Strategy for its implementation and, more recently, the 2014 SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

Solomon Islands believes that the Council has built up sufficient knowledge over time, and is now-well placed to take a more proactive in giving more prominence to climate change, as it has done with regard to other non-traditional security issues, such HIV, back in 1983, and Ebola, just last year. Such challenges are breaking down social structures and, in the case of SIDS, exposing populations to face greater security threats and risks. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to make five specific proposals to the Council.

First, the Council should institutionalize the threat of climate change on its agenda.

Secondly, the Council should play a much more proactive role in mobilizing multilateral action to deliver as one on this issue. That also means the Council exploring new avenues to enhance the country presence of the United Nations, especially in least developed SIDS. Too many opportunities have been missed over the decades. The one-size-fits-all approach of over-regionalizing United Nations SIDS programmes has made SIDS orphans multilaterally.

Thirdly, SIDS need a new international partnership that is able to transform our lives and build resilient societies. At the moment, our hydro, geothermal and wind potential are not the subject of sufficient global partnerships, in spite of the huge amount of multilateral funds spent within SIDS. Hopefully, the post-2015 agenda will change that dynamic.

Fourthly, the Council's work needs to be guided by science. The structured expert dialogue under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change this year established and confirmed the fact that stabilizing global temperature at or below 2° Celsius is too much of a risk for SIDS and LDCs. The agreement to be reached at Paris must deliver in order to establish that level at well below 1.5° Celsius. SIDS cannot pay the price of the excessive consumption and care-free lives of some at the expense of their survival and viability.

Fifthly, with regard to the reform of the Council, we seek an expanded Council that includes a seat for SIDS so that our challenges are meaningfully addressed in the Council.

In conclusion, Solomon Islands believes that preventive diplomacy is the central work of the Council. SIDS issues cannot be addressed by the Council alone, but with the Council and the entire United Nations system working in a systematic and coherent manner. If we fail the 37 SIDS Members of the United Nations, we will also fail in upholding our Charter responsibilities, as well as the multilateral system.

The President: I now give the floor to the Observer of the Holy See.

Monsignor Kassas: My delegation commends you, Sir, for convening this first-ever Security Council open debate on the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS). For SIDS, climate-related threats are more than just an environmental issue, or even a development issue, they are an existential threat.

My delegation sees concern for climate change as inseparable from concern for human development. Caring for the environment and alleviating poverty are not separate challenges, but parts of one and the same challenge: providing integral and authentic human development. Pope Francis proposes this "integral ecology" as a paradigm able to articulate harmoniously our fundamental multidimensional relationships. He has affirmed that we are not faced with two separate crises, but rather one complex crisis that is both social and environmental. Therefore, strategies for a solution demand an integral approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged and, at the same time, protecting nature. If we lose sight of our oneness with the environment, our attitude to it will be that of masters, consumers and ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously.

Our care for the Earth should therefore be much more than a "green" attitude; it must also be a social one, because we human beings are a part of nature, included in it and in constant interaction with it. As Pope Francis told the mayors of the world's major cities gathered at the Vatican on 21 July, care for the environment is a social attitude. My delegation wishes to mention briefly three areas where we can make a difference in the next few months.

First, we can do so by achieving a deal in Paris to combat climate change. Pope Francis challenges global political leaders to be courageous and move beyond the mind-set of short-term gain that dominates present-day economics and politics. In Paris, we need a deal that will leave behind a testimony of selfless responsibility.

Secondly, we can do so by allocating sufficient financial resources to tackle climate change and to respond to current needs. Climate finance is a key part of paying the ecological debt, and is vital for building trust towards a successful climate deal in Paris.

And, thirdly, we can do so by increasing access to renewable energy as an enabler of sustainable development. Billions of people need access to energy to lift them out of poverty. Richer countries must help poorer countries develop less-polluting forms of energy production by giving them greater access to technology and financial resources.

While climate change and underdevelopment are primarily socioeconomic issues, they can severely impact the peace and security of local communities, of regions and of entire nations — and, indeed, of the international community. My delegation will continue to engage in these discussions in the context of the General Assembly and other relevant forums.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Alday González (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank the delegation of New Zealand for its initiative in convening this meeting, which makes it possible to learn at first hand the challenges and specific vulnerabilities faced by small island developing States (SIDS) in maintaining international peace and security. On behalf of Mexico, I should like to take this opportunity to commend you, Mr. President, on your presidency of the Security Council for the month of July, which, as we have seen, has not been an easy month. We also wish to acknowledge the presence of the various ministers and Heads of State or Government participating here today.

Mexico is convinced that development is intrinsically linked to peace and security. Without peace there can be no sustainable development, and vice versa. We recognize the vulnerability and special situation of SIDS in terms of making progress on sustainable development and therefore consider it indispensable to strengthen international cooperation to benefit these States in the economic, social and environmental areas.

That is why we encourage every effort to bring about the effective implementation of the SIDS Action Platform as a space with a dual function: to integrate the progress made and to provide guidance for the planning of future actions. We believe that the United Nations system is the sole authority with the ability to mobilize and take concrete action to consolidate and guide efforts in this direction; accordingly, it is incumbent upon all Member States to nurture the system with political will and concrete commitments in order to effectively address the unique challenges facing small island developing States.

From those who are dealing with these challenges every day, we have at this meeting heard about the consequences that climate change, food insecurity, transnational organized crime and piracy have had for their territories and populations. The droughts and hurricanes that often affect SIDS, together with so-called slow-onset events, conspire in some cases to generate a real threat to their territorial survival and become unequivocal examples of how climate change can be a threat multiplier for global security. We take this opportunity to call for strengthening the global climate regime by adopting a new and ambitious agreement at the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in France in December.

Among other underlying challenges for many SIDS is the prevalence of undernourishment at alarming rates for their populations, aggravated by the challenges in agriculture and fisheries. Hunger and malnutrition are not only the result of conflict, but can also provoke them, alter the fabric of societies and nations, and undermine peace. In contrast, their eradication helps to prevent conflict and promote peace. My delegation believes that governance issues such as the responsiveness of the institutions of small island States can prevent temporary food insecurity crises caused by short-term factors from becoming chronic food insecurity that threatens peace and security.

Everyone in this Chamber is well aware of the link between the over-exploitation of natural resources and conflicts around the world. The sanctions imposed by the Security Council on countries where the illegal exploitation of natural resources takes place should be the international community's imperative for preventing conflicts, especially in developing countries like SIDS.

The challenge that transnational organized crime represents for the international community is exacerbated when we analyse it from the viewpoint of SIDS. Their size and limited capabilities for effectively patrolling exclusive economic zones make them more susceptible to lurking criminal networks, often turning them into stopover points in the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, persons and drugs. Mexico has a strong interest in promoting a substantive multilateral discussion that highlights the similarities among regions within the framework of the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held next year.

The threats and challenges that we have heard about throughout this debate demand multifaceted responses not only from the countries concerned but from the international community as a whole. In addition to the tools available to the United Nations system to which we have already referred, there is the role the Security Council could play, and should want to play, to mitigate the risks and threats of conflicts. Thought must be given to the actions that the Security Council can take to support the efforts that the small island developing States are carrying out to address the existing challenges and, more importantly, to prevent future conflicts and strengthen the maintenance of international peace and security.

Compliance with decisions and resolutions of the Security Council requires new legal, economic and financial obligations from many States and, in the particular case of SIDS, a disproportionate additional administrative burden and a further reduction in their limited resources as the result of competing policy priorities. We invite the Security Council to discuss and adopt formulas that equip Member States with institutional mechanisms to respond clearly to the issues raised by the implementation of some of its resolutions and in particular sanctions regimes. It will be essential to provide access to resources of the Organization to address these issues in the instances that warrant it.

For no one is this challenge more burdensome than for SIDS. In a rules-based international system, practical support should be provided to all parts of the system. Larger countries and the multilateral system and organizations cannot continue to impose on small island developing States the same obligations as on the rest without providing structural support so that they can meet those obligations appropriately.

In this context, we believe it is important to emphasize the need for the voice of the SIDS have a more regular presence in this Chamber. Mexico is aware that in the past quarter century only six SIDS have been members of this Council. Therefore, as part of the compromise proposal to reform and democratize the Security Council, we urge the expansion of the number of seats — all non-permanent — to have a more diverse representation of the international community, ensuring greater and more frequent representation of SIDS, and the creation of long-term seats with the possibility of immediate re-election. Mexico invites the small island developing States to broaden the dialogue on this issue and on other ideas or proposals that help them and us to strengthen their ability to completely fulfil their role as active members of the international community.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Thailand.

Mr. Plasai (Thailand): I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating New Zealand for its successful presidency of the Security Council this month. I would also like to express my delegation's appreciation of the initiative of bringing up the issue of peace and security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS), which is a good follow-up to the Third International Conference on SIDS, held in 2014 in Samoa, and which will hopefully allow us to add new dimensions to the response the United Nations system may have in this regard. We also appreciate the informative briefings by the Secretary-General, the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica and the Minister of Finance of Seychelles.

As a developing country and a maritime nation, the Kingdom of Thailand shares many interests and concerns with SIDS and in recent years has been steadily intensifying partnership and cooperation with island countries. In Asia and the Pacific, for which the Kingdom has been the United Nations regional hub since 1947, we have been working closely with our SIDS friends to address those common concerns.

Last August, in recognition of 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States, the Royal Thai Government hosted the first Thailand-Pacific Island Countries Forum in Bangkok. The conference opened a new chapter for closer development partnership based on five priority areas of cooperation, namely, ecotourism, information and communication technology, alternative energy, rural area development and infrastructure, and environmental conservation and management. A new Thailand-Pacific Action Plan has also been adopted to reflect the ideas and comments brought out at the conference and set the future direction for our comprehensive partnership, not only with the Pacific island countries but beyond. With the emergence of the Economic Community of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the year 2015 also provides a new window of opportunities for closer partnership between ASEAN and SIDS.

I would like to focus on some of the pressing issues of concern we share with SIDS that should continue to rank high on the United Nations agenda, starting with climate change. We may recall in that regard that the Security Council's first-ever debate on the impact of climate change on security (see S/PV.5663) took place in this very Chamber eight years ago.

Today, climate change remains a major threat to the very survival of SIDS, as it can lead to drought and extreme weather phenomena, rises in sea levels, coastal erosion and ocean acidification. The United Nations system should urgently mobilize efforts to come up with a long-term global response, starting perhaps with the anticipated agreement at this year's Paris meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which we hope will be an important milestone in efforts to limit global greenhouse gas emissions to levels required to hold off increases in the global average temperature.

Climate change is also a threat to food security for SIDS, which are already vulnerable in that regard due to their high dependence on subsistence fishing for domestic consumption and on food imports, as well as to their narrow land-resource base. That in turn undermines efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. The entities of the United Nations system should work together to assist SIDS in developing sustainable agriculture, enhancing their productive capacities and improving their regional connectivity.

Closely linked to climate change are the issues of water management and natural disasters. Both are of course vital for all countries, but they can disproportionately affect SIDS. The United Nations system should work to help them respond to their current critical needs, particularly to improve access to fresh water and address the problem of water scarcity, to build resilience, strengthen monitoring and preventive mechanisms, raise awareness and increase their preparedness to respond to and recover from disasters. Given the uniqueness of SIDS and their particular vulnerabilities, we support their access to technical assistance and financing for sound investments in water-management infrastructure, as well as for early warning and disaster risk reduction and management systems.

Another critical challenge for SIDS is the illicit exploitation of natural resources, especially illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. As a State with a large part of its population relying on the oceans' healthiness, but also as a fishing nation, the Kingdom of Thailand fully recognizes the vast impact of this issue on sustainable development, and we share a common stance with SIDS.

We are therefore very pleased to see the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources listed as a stand-alone sustainable development goal — goal 14, for which we voice our unwavering support. To achieve that important goal, we need strong political will and commitment on the part of the international community. In the years to come, the United Nations system can play an important role, particularly in strengthening the regime for cooperation between the coastal and flag States of fishing vessels in waters under national jurisdiction, and in developing strong mechanisms for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in waters beyond national jurisdiction.

To that end, the Kingdom of Thailand supports the initiatives of SIDS and other Member States to follow up on and implement goal 14 through regular global conferences until 2029, and looks forward to participating constructively in the process of developing a legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in the context of the forthcoming preparatory committee on marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

At the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States last year, we reaffirmed our support for SIDS' efforts to effectively combat transnational organized crime. We are pleased that our cooperation with SIDS in that area, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, has been going well. We are ready for further partnership and urge the international community to further cooperate with SIDS in addressing their transnational organized crime concerns, taking into account their vulnerability as small economies with expansive exclusive economic zones.

Through the United Nations system, Member States and other stakeholders, let us build a partnership to raise awareness and support for SIDS as they cope with their challenges. The Kingdom of Thailand, as always, is committed to standing shoulder to shoulder with our SIDS friends as a reliable and responsible development partner.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Braun (Germany): I would like to begin by thanking New Zealand for taking the initiative, which we applaud, of convening this open debate. It offers a rare but important opportunity for the Security Council to highlight the challenges and vulnerabilities that affect 52 countries and territories and more than 50 million people on this globe.

Germany is convinced that the dimensions of the threats facing small island developing States (SIDS) and their vulnerability to them require a global response. All must play their part, including the United Nations system. Germany is prepared to assume its fair share of responsibility in that endeavour. I would like to provide a few examples and proposals for action.

First, concerning climate change, the implications of global warming threaten small island States disproportionately. For some, it is a question of survival; for virtually all of them it is a matter of national security. That is why it is so important that we reach an ambitious climate agreement in Paris later this year, since it would represent a crucial investment in future peace and security, especially — though certainly not only — for small island developing States. We must improve our mitigation and adaptation efforts. A recent study presented under the current German presidency of the Group of Seven (G-7) showed that we do not yet use risk assessments and early warning systems effectively. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II) should therefore be one of our prime guidelines for further action.

My country is prepared to support vulnerable countries, thereby making an ambitious climate agreement more attainable. To that end, Germany recently pledged to double its public climate financing by 2020, to €4 billion annually.

Turning to the role of the United Nations and the Security Council, I would like to reaffirm Germany's position that the Council should discuss the interdependence of climate change and security on a regular basis. We consider the presidential statement on the subject (S/PRST/2011/15) — issued, incidentally, under Germany's presidency of the Council in 2011 — to be an important step in that regard. We favour an update of the Secretary-General's 2009 report on climate change and its possible security implications (A/64/350). We also welcome the recommendations made by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations in its report of 16 June (S/2015/446) and hope they will be included in the Secretary-General's report.

On the subject of sustainable development, we look forward to the adoption of an ambitious post-2015 agenda that takes into account the particular vulnerabilities and challenges of SIDS. The successful implementation of such a far-reaching agenda requires a new global partnership for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Again, Germany is prepared to play its part here.

My country is also making use of its current presidency of the G-7 to support small island developing States. The G-7 leaders agreed at their recent summit in Germany to increase to 400 million by 2020 the number of people in the most vulnerable developing countries who have access to insurance coverage against hazards related to climate change. They also agreed to support the development of early warning systems in the regions most affected. Furthermore, they committed to taking action to combat marine litter, which poses a global challenge and affects so many SIDS. Back in April, the G-7 foreign ministers issued a statement on maritime security, addressing issues of considerable concern to SIDS, such as piracy and illegal fishing.

With the adoption of the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex), the post-2015 agenda and a new climate agreement in Paris in December, 2015 will be a critical year for all of us, and very prominently for SIDS. Let us all make it a year of success and hope.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Cortorreal (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me at the outset to congratulate, through you, New Zealand for bringing to this important forum of the United Nations an issue of particular sensitivity for island States, given that environmental degradation and climate change directly affect sustainable development in all of our countries. It is important that the Security Council recognize the humanitarian risks entailed by climate change, as well as the political and security risks that result from extreme tensions and conflict.

The impact and consequences of climate change on human security are related to international security. In our view, global policy action is required by this important international forum. The Dominican Republic finds itself in a special situation that makes us vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Our overriding priority is human security, and, to that end, we value the opportunity to share our concerns in this important arena.

Our delegation is particularly troubled by the phenomenon of annual rainfall distribution. Adequate knowledge about this phenomenon makes it possible to safeguard water as a resource that is not only vital but crucial to establishing and maintaining stable societies. For small island developing States (SIDS) like ours, this is particularly important.

The Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Republic of Haiti, knows full well its rainfall pattern. This has enabled the country to make its water resources one of its main vectors for development. The Dominican nation has therefore built 14 major multipurpose hydro plants and 4,000 kilometres of irrigation channels. This infrastructure has allowed us to double the amount of arable land in just a few decades. We must also point out that up to 15 per cent of Dominican electric production comes from hydro-electric plants. This system of clean and renewable energy cost billions of dollars and requires substantial resources for its expansion and maintenance.

We are proud to say that Dominican legislation establishes the resource of water as a public good, but despite this progress the impacts of climate change have begun to affect the efficiency of our hydro system. The clear changes in rainfall patterns, with persistent periods of drought, has plunged us into an unprecedented water-supply crisis.

As things stand, every five or seven years we have a year of drought. The danger now is that, if the temperatures keep rising, rainfall years will soon become the exception. This would involve a constant decrease of rainfall throughout the island, that is, persistent drought. There is already a water crisis in neighbouring Haiti, in addition to a well-known lack of infrastructure for regulating and exploiting water resources. This is an additional factor of concern to that brother country that leads to its nationals continuing to emigrate to our country, owing to the continuing pressure on resources.

Increasing drought, water scarcity and land abuse undoubtedly will further degrade the soil, leading to social tensions and economic and land losses, which will undoubtedly affect global human security, even in those countries considered to be politically sound. In our opinion, it is appropriate and very important that the Security Council adopt a resolution recognizing the threat posed by the foreseeable effects of climate change. In so doing, it would be more fully taking on a universal challenge and facilitate the emergence and implementation of effective and timely solutions to provide peaceful responses that are based on shared values of respect for life, human dignity and the environment.

In conclusion, I wish to categorically reject the imputations made by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Minister for Foreign Affairs against the Dominican Republic in its national plan for foreigners. The Dominican Republic stresses that our country has not conducted any deportations since 2003 and that there has been no violence against those who have wished to voluntarily leave our country. In exercise of its sovereignty, the Dominican Republic, in the framework of a strict constitutional and legal order, has always implemented its national plan for the regularization of foreigners with due respect for human dignity and in compliance with the principles and standards established in human rights commissions.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Cyprus.

Mr. Emiliou (Cyprus): Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, and your delegation on your successful stewardship of this month's presidency of the Security Council and for convening this open debate. This debate could not have been more timely, as we are approaching the first anniversary of the adoption of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway), a blueprint for sustainable development for small island developing States (SIDS), while in September a historic summit will take place here at the United Nations for the adoption of a universal post-2015 development agenda that would call for global action towards inclusive, sustainable development and universal prosperity in a peaceful, safe and just world.

The Republic of Cyprus aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the observer of the European Union and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

The international community has recognized the particular challenges facing SIDS, especially through the outcome documents of international conferences, such as the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and, most recently, the Samoa Pathway.

Their small size, the limited nature of their economies, their lack of capacity and resources, and their geographical isolation and exposure to natural disasters render those States more vulnerable to subsequent threats that adversely affect their economies and societies. Such challenges are, inter alia, lack of human capacity, land degradation, weak infrastructure, food insecurity, brain drain due to migration, organized crime, including the trafficking of drugs, small arms and persons, as well as piracy, and, most importantly, the adverse effects of climate change.

The 2012 World Bank report entitled "Turn Down the Heat" warns that if current commitments and pledges are not fully adhered to, a warming of 4°C could occur as early as the 2060s and that an associated sea-level rise of 0.51 metre or more by 2100 will threaten the very existence of entire countries and many SIDS.

Needless to say, all of those grave challenges have a serious, cumulative impact on the stability and peace of many SIDS. Following the Security Council's recent Arria Formula meeting on the role of climate change as a threat to global security, especially for SIDS, this debate is an excellent opportunity for SIDS to further contribute to the discussion on how we can collectively address the peace and security challenges related to climate change that small island States have to face.

Climate change, as the greatest threat multiplier for global security, can be considered the root cause of many of the various challenges that threaten SIDS and make them socially, environmentally and economically more susceptible.

Ecosystems and marine biodiversity are also susceptible to aggressive changes in the environment, something that directly affects coastal and marine resources and, eventually, tourism and fisheries. Climate change can lead to or intensify structural adversities and increase communicable and noncommunicable diseases. It deepens social and economic disparities, as climate-induced migration illustrates.

Cyprus, as a small island State in the Mediterranean, is familiar with those challenges. Our small size, remoteness, limited natural resources — such as water scarcity — render us exposed and vulnerable to many challenges similar to those currently facing SIDS. That is why we have always maintained the view that the interest of small island States can best be served and protected collectively, within the framework of the United Nations. It must be emphasized, in this context, that building alliances and partnerships between SIDS and all relevant actors — including regional organizations, global financial institutions, the private sector and civil society — is crucial in addressing the numerous and diverse challenges of the small island States.

SIDS rely on the support and solidarity of the international community. In our national capacity and as a member of the European Union, we support and contribute to the realization of many of the shared objectives of SIDS, including that of addressing climate change globally.

Development, peace and security go hand in hand. The sustainable development goals, which our leaders will adopt next September, have clearly established that peace and security cannot exist without development and development cannot be achieved without peace. International cooperation and effective collective measures to remove any threats to peace lie at the core of our preventive actions, and with the involvement of all actors, governmental and non-governmental, and all other stakeholders, we can help SIDS build resilience and a more prosperous and sustainable life. It is in our collective interest to do so, and it is in the interest of global peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Mukerji (India): I will shorten my statement in the interest of time and circulate the full text for reference.

India shares traditional and strong bonds of friendship and kinship with small island developing States (SIDS). With a coastline extending more than 7,500 kilometres and with several groups of islands located far away from our mainland, India is deeply conscious of the special challenges faced by SIDS.

As part of the South-South cooperation, India has been privileged to share its developmental experience and expertise as well as technological resources with SIDS. Our cooperation with SIDS has emphasized human and institutional capacity- building, infrastructure development, climate change adaptation, agriculture and food security, among others. Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC), in 2014 in Fiji, to enable regular dialogue and interaction between our two sides. The next meeting of FIPIC will be hosted in India next month.

The very useful concept note circulated by New Zealand for this debate (S/2015/543) disaggregates the topic into four broad headings. In all these areas, it is clear that effective international cooperation has been most viable outside the confines of the Security Council. We must look beyond the Security Council in redressing the concerns outlined in the concept note.

For example, though piracy was taken up by the 15-member Security Council in resolutions 1851 (2008) and 1918 (2010), it has been through a much wider grouping — the 60-member Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia — that the security and economic concerns related to piracy have actually been addressed. This democratic and transparent approach commends consideration of broadening effective international cooperation to tackle piracy, under the framework of the General Assembly and taking into account the concerns expressed by SIDS.

The General Assembly devoted decades of discussion and negotiation to enable the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) in 1982. That has been a major achievement of the Assembly, and UNCLOS today is the platform from which issues of concern to Member States, including SIDS, with regard to the illicit exploitation of natural resources, including illicit fishing, are most effectively addressed. We need to provide more attention in the General Assembly on how to enable SIDS to use the provisions of UNCLOS more effectively.

As the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is poised to conclude its current negotiations in Paris in December this year, we advocate that the concerns of SIDS on climate change must be reflected in the outcome document that will be adopted in Paris. SIDS are at the front line of the threat from climate change and sea-level rise and suffer the most from a global problem they did not contribute to.

Adaptation to climate change remains one of the highest priorities for SIDS. Long-promised financial support under UNFCCC from developed countries must reach the SIDS expeditiously. The Green Climate Fund must also prioritize disbursement of funds to SIDS for their urgent adaptation priorities.

We are poised to adopt the post-2015 development agenda at the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly in September this year. It is worth emphasizing the importance of sustainable development goal 14 in the context of this debate. Goal 14 reflects the active participation of many Member States, especially SIDS, in both identifying and addressing the concerns related to development in the area of oceans, seas and marine resources.

Before concluding, Mr. President, I must thank your delegation for pointing out in the concept note that as many as 37 Member States are small island developing States. While SIDS have participated effectively in the universal platform provided by the General Assembly to address their specific concerns, it is a pity that the restricted and undemocratic nature of the Security Council has so far prevented SIDS from contributing their unique perspective as developing countries to the Council's deliberations.

That situation cannot be sustained for much longer. We therefore call on you, Mr. President, to include in your proposed non-paper a strong endorsement of the call of a majority of Member States for urgent and early reforms of the structure of the Security Council, expanding its membership in both categories in order to allow the voices of developing countries, especially those of SIDS, to be acted upon more regularly and be heard more often in the Council Chamber.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): I would like to extend my appreciation to New Zealand for putting the spotlight, for the very first time in the Council, on the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS).

Albert Einstein said, "In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems." In matters of truth and justice, there is also no difference between large and small countries. More than a fifth of the Member States of the United Nations are classified as small island developing States. Whether in the Pacific, the Caribbean or off the coast of Africa, members of this unique community — SIDS — are disproportionately affected by climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters. These challenges pose considerable obstacles to their development and, ultimately, to their peace and security and to ours.

One major challenge for SIDS is the health of our oceans. Although we in Israel may not have vast oceans lapping at our shores, we know that they are the livelihood of our blue planet. Healthy oceans are not only essential for the environment, but they are at the core of the world's economic prosperity, social resilience and our peace and security. While the health of our oceans is an issue that we must all confront together, the small island developing States are at the vanguard of this global effort and face the highest risks should we all fail.

In this campaign, it is not the size of the country but the bravery and determination of its people that will make the difference. One example we can look to is Palau, which has demonstrated courage and leadership, announcing it will establish the world's first nation-wide marine sanctuary. Palau will designate its entire ocean territory as a regenerative zone for sharks, whales, tuna and countless other precious species.

When asked about his country's tremendous efforts in that regard, the President of Palau, Tommy Remengesau, replied powerfully and succinctly, "We have no choice — the ocean is our way of life". The international community has no choice but to stand with the SIDS to protect our oceans and to combat climate change.

Around the globe, SIDS are proactively coming together and partnering with other countries to employ innovative ways to combat climate change. For example, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre in Belize coordinates the Caribbean region's response to climate change. Efforts to incorporate renewable energy, particularly solar power, to combat climate change are growing in this region. Recently, energy professionals from Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Belize came to Israel to undergo a unique course of intensive training in renewable sources of energy. Israel and its Caribbean SIDS partners are working together to bring renewable energy solutions to the region because we know that small countries can produce big ideas.

The courage of SIDS, disproportionate to their size and population, is also quite evident in the realm of peacemaking. Some of the smallest SIDS — some of the smallest Member States in this family of nations, in fact — are proud contributors to peacekeeping. Countries such as Vanuatu, Samoa and Grenada contribute police officers to peacekeeping efforts around the world. For decades we in Israel have appreciated the presence of the Fijian peacekeepers serving in United Nations peacekeeping missions in the Golan Heights and in Lebanon and in the multilateral force in the Sinai. Far away from home, the Fijian peacekeepers have earned a place of respect for their contribution to peace and security in our region.

Israel is a small island of sorts, a State in the midst of an often turbulent sea of hostility. We face important challenges to peace and security, but in our early years the primary strategic threat to Israel was the scarcity of water and the challenges of developing our agricultural infrastructure — issues that are still plaguing many SIDS. That is not ancient history, nor is it theory. Our successes and our failures are still fresh, and those lessons are part of our contribution to our SIDS partners on their path to development, peace and security.

In 2014 Israel participated in the historic Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa. The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) outcome document of 2014 is the road map for addressing the challenges of peace and security facing SIDS. At its heart is the principle of sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships. In the spirit of the Samoa Pathway, Israel has pledged to provide 25 public health scholarships for SIDS scholars at the world-renowned Hebrew University in Jerusalem, of which I am a graduate. Furthermore, Israel, in cooperation with the Marshall Islands, deployed an innovative, mobile water purification vehicle in the island of Ebeye.

As we are about to agree on the most comprehensive and ambitious sustainable development goals for the next 15 years, we must make sure that SIDS remain at the top of our priorities. In our interconnected global reality, no man is an island and no island is detached from the rest of the world. Island nations must be embraced. From Port Vila in Vanuatu to Port au Prince in Haiti, the global community must sow the seeds of development so that SIDS will prosper in the future.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Yoshikawa (Japan): At the Security Council's Arria formula meeting on climate change last month, many countries, including Japan, pointed out that climate change can act as a threat multiplier to natural disasters and other phenomena, especially for small island developing States (SIDS). For example, the rise in sea level caused by climate change can pose a threat to a nation's existence. That should be regarded as an issue of national and regional security. It is also important to address other issues such as development, disaster risk reduction and the illicit exploitation of natural resources.

To help SIDS overcome these challenges, Japan has made efforts in this field. Let me elaborate.

First, we served as a member of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the Third International Conference on SIDS, held in Samoa in September of last year. Japan has committed itself to helping implement recommendations made at the Conference, which include addressing the priorities of SIDS, such as climate change and disaster risk reduction. We pledged to train 5,000 experts from SIDS on those issues over the next three years.

Secondly, in May this year, Japan held the Seventh Pacific Island Leaders Meeting in Iwaki, Fukushima. At that summit the participating leaders discussed issues of priority such as disaster risk reduction, climate change and maritime issues and fisheries. Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan would provide development assistance amounting to ¥55 billion over the next three years for the priorities of the Pacific SIDS. We also announced our intention to provide assistance for the development of the Pacific Climate Change Centre and capacity-building, which support efforts to tackle climate change by the Pacific region as a whole.

Thirdly, Japan's efforts to support SIDS are not limited to the Pacific region. Prime Minister Abe visited Trinidad and Tobago and held the first Japan-CARICOM Summit in July 2014. Prime Minister Abe recognized the importance of assisting CARICOM member States based on criteria other than per-capita income, considering their particular vulnerabilities as SIDS. On that occasion, Japan also announced grant aid of ¥1.5 billion towards climate change efforts for eight Caribbean States, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme. As expressed at the Summit, Japan will continue to enhance its assistance to CARICOM member States in disaster risk reduction, environment and energy.

Finally, Japan hosted the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June 2013. Japan's assistance in the framework of TICAD V for African SIDS includes the installation of a climate radar system and support for preventing coastal erosion. We have been steadily implementing our commitments.

As I have outlined, Japan has been actively working on the issues of SIDS around the world and will continue to support them with our partners in the United Nations system to address their current and future challenges.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Nauru.

Ms. Moses (Nauru): Let me begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for convening this debate. Allow me to also acknowledge the presence of Their Excellencies the Heads of State and Government and ministers from the small island developing States (SIDS).

My delegation aligns its statement with those delivered by Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States and by Tonga on behalf of the Pacific States.

It is much appreciated that the Security Council is considering the root causes of conflict and not just situations in which conflict has already broken out. A holistic approach can be very useful for understanding the larger context of any given challenge. And SIDS undoubtedly face a unique and particular set of challenges — challenges to our development, to our security and even to our territorial integrity. Some are due to the immutable characteristics of SIDS. We are small, we are isolated, and we are vulnerable. Those things will never change.

However, we also exist in the context of a global economic and security system that is very much manmade and is every bit as responsible for the current situations in which we find ourselves. And that system can be changed, if we want it to be.

Therefore, before going through a laundry list of issues, it is important that we consider all of the challenges facing SIDS in the context of three overarching issues: global environmental governance, global economic governance and global security governance. Deficiencies in those areas are at the root of the security challenges faced not only by SIDS but by many other vulnerable developing countries around the world.

Taking them in turn, the breakdown in global environmental governance is most apparent in our collective failure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions despite more than two decades of trying. Climate change represents the single biggest threat to many SIDS. Adaptation measures demand an ever-growing percentage of our domestic budgets. Climate change threatens to put an end to our sustainable development and, in some cases, to our physical existence.

We see a comparably grave crisis brewing in our oceans. Destructive fishing practices and overfishing are depleting stocks at an alarming rate, while pollution, acidification and coral bleaching are devastating our reef systems. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in our waters amounts to nothing less than piracy, a topic that the Security Council has addressed before. The very foundation of our small island economies is being quickly dismantled.

The international community knows the steps required to address such environmental crises, but we fail to take them. Often they are opposed by very powerful economic interests or our urgency is not shared by the larger countries. That brings us to the failures in global economic governance. Countries have failed to rein in a predatory financial industry that privileges rampant speculation over sound investments. The most vivid example of the industry's shortsightedness would have to be its continued funding of new fossil fuel exploration and development despite the fact that over two-thirds of the known reserves must stay in the ground if we are to preserve anything resembling a safe climate. It is hard to believe that we have not learned the lessons from the last financial crisis, which saw similar levels of reckless speculation based on fraudulent projections.

The richest and most powerful countries write the rules that the rest of us must follow. The decisions they make in the lofty political forums dealing with international trade, finance and military cooperation have far-reaching implications for our development prospects. They hold the keys. They can open the doors for us or they can close them.

What we have seen is that private profit is privileged over public good; the wealthy are privileged over the weakest among us. SIDS are constantly being told that we must make our islands more attractive to private investors, but there is scant evidence that the investors are interested in improving our schools or our hospitals or our basic infrastructure — all necessary for sustainable development. We have attempted to meet the stringent requirements set for good governance, but then we see good governance getting undermined by the same forces when precious resources are at stake. Official development assistance is available sometimes, but too often it comes with strings attached. We have seen countless times how such leverage can be wielded to dictate policy and undermine sovereignty.

Environmental impacts continue to grow much faster than our capacity to deal with them, while a large percentage of the world's population remains excluded from the global economy. That inevitably leads to greater human suffering, instability and, in the worst cases, violent conflict. The number of people displaced every year seems to move in only one direction, up. Yet global security governance has failed to respond adequately. In fact, the response often seems to exacerbate the situation. Meanwhile, vulnerable countries have been left to shoulder the growing security burden with minimal assistance. On every continent, the rich and the powerful contain the problems in ever higher barbed-wire fences.

Global environmental governance, economic governance and security governance: those three inter-related systems and how they are reformed will have an enormous influence on whether SIDS are able to thrive or languish. Therefore, when we examine the numerous threats facing SIDS, we should not ignore the wider global context in which we are forced to operate.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Uruguay.

Mr. Koncke (Uruguay): My delegation would like to congratulate the New Zealand delegation and especially His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs for the remarkable work done in the month of July while serving as President of the Security Council. We would like to highlight the firm commitment demonstrated by you, Mr. President, and by your country to the values and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We would also like to commend the opportune choices made in regard to the small island developing States (SIDS) as well as other challenges undertaken that we will all remember.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

At the outset, I would again like to commend you for convening this open debate on such an important topic as that of the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS). I also wish to thank the Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Samoa, the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the Minister of Finance of the Seychelles for their briefings.

At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the international community recognized the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS in terms of their small size, limited resources, geographic dispersion, isolation from markets and dependence on international trade, among many other factors. Those vulnerabilities pose significant challenges not only for the sustainable development of SIDS but also because they often threaten the very existence of those countries through the impact of climate change.

My country had the honour of participating in the Third International Conference on SIDS, held in Samoa in September 2014, where the issue of sustainable development was discussed at length. As stated in the concept note prepared for this open debate (S/2015/543, annex), the Conference Outcome document also reaffirmed the importance of the issue of peace and security for SIDS.

Today, with complex challenges like the current ones, no clear boundaries exist between the agendas of health, human rights, environmental protection, economic development and maintaining international peace and security. Issues such as piracy, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including illegal fishing and drug trafficking, and other activities of global organized crime, pose serious threats to the peace and security of SIDS. Others take advantage of their inherent vulnerabilities, with potential dangerous effects on international peace and security, which is why the Council has included this topic of grave concern on its agenda.

The increasing impact of climate change and natural disasters on small island developing States and on the efforts of those countries to achieve sustainable development is an undeniable reality. Given that reality, it is essential that the entire international community intensify its efforts and recognize the responsibilities incumbent upon it in every forum, particularly within the principal bodies of the United Nations, such as the Council.

Our region, Latin America and the Caribbean, has been actively involved in seeking a solution to the problem, not only because it directly affects countries in the region, that is the Caribbean States, which are SIDS and advocate on the issue, but also through the calling we have in the region for peace and solidarity. We have seen how one small island developing State in the region faces multiple challenges. I am referring to the case of Haiti, where the international community and the region in particular have made enormous efforts towards its stabilization. Those efforts continue, although we have not yet achieved the desired result, but we do see progress.

That is why we believe that the special needs of SIDS must be borne in mind in all forums and attended to in some specific ones, and that substantive solutions to the structural problems that are the causes of the problem must be found.

Finally, my delegation would like to highlight the contribution of the SIDS to the international community's efforts to maintain international peace and security, particularly in conflict mediation, and their contribution to peacekeeping operations with nearly 700 Blue Helmets. Uruguay, as a country that is also truly committed to the peacekeeping system, salutes the efforts and commitment to peace that those countries have demonstrated.

Similarly, Uruguay, as a candidate to the Security Council for the 2016-2017 biennium, feels a profound commitment to the SIDS. In that sense, if elected, Uruguay is committed to providing the necessary support to those issues that require the complete involvement of the international community. In that regard, we hope to help.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Panama.

Ms. Flores Herrera (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): First, I want to welcome New Zealand's presidency of the Security Council. I also welcome Mr. Murray McCully, Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand.

I cannot think of a better setting or physical space than the territories of the SIDS where we can so clearly see the inextricable link between peace and security, sustainable development and climate change. The reality faced by the SIDS compels us to realize that we cannot continue to work on those issues, which are so fundamental for the United Nations agenda, in an isolated fashion. I therefore thank New Zealand for this open debate, which enables us — apart from exchanging ideas on how to tackle the peace and security challenges of small island developing States from a global standpoint — to think outside the box. It compels us to seek innovative ways of building bridges and to link themes and realities that, through force of habit, we have so far been dealing with separately.

In any territory, peace and security becomes consolidated when we have inclusive development, namely, a development with healthy ecosystems, a development that promotes equality and respect for human rights. That is how democracy is strengthened, which leads to greater peace and security. Every nation in the world aspires to that kind of a chain of progress.

But the SIDS face additional challenges in their efforts to strengthen their peace and security. Although they are among the countries with the greatest biological, cultural and linguistic diversity and their inhabitants have a wealth of resources and are extremely resilient, the small island developing States continue to face many vulnerabilities. All those who have taken the floor before me have already mentioned that we must bear in mind that those more than 50 nations, which are scattered between Africa, the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean and the Mediterranean Seas and China, are disproportionately limited in their development because of dangers, threats and other security issues that are multidimensional and transnational and which involve political, economic, social, environmental and geographical factors as well.

My country Panama is a Caribbean State. The Antillean presence during the construction of the Interoceanic Canal in Panama helped in forming the Panamanian nationality, and that ethnic group became part of the very expression of our nation. Therefore, Panama is truly interested in working with and for the small island developing States: in the framework embodied by the results achieved at the Samoa Conference on SIDS in 2014, bilaterally and on a subregional basis, in order to overcome the obstacles on the path to the full development of those countries.

Last April, my country hosted the Seventh Summit of the Americas, which succeeded in relaunching hemispheric relations, with the attendance of all the heads of State and Government of our island neighbours. During the Summit Panama expressed its intention to become an observer in the regional group known as the Caribbean Community.

It also seems appropriate to mention that as a contribution to the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, Panama has made a proposal that could be gradually completed in two successive stages and would lead, by the United Nations centenary, to a Security Council with 24 members, two of which we propose should be SIDS. In that Council all members would be equal and elected for three years, with the possibility of consecutive re-election.

In conclusion, I am proud to point out that, as destiny would have it, in this case because of the alphabetical order, Panama is seated in the General Assembly between two small island developing States: Palau and Papua New Guinea. That has helped us acquire special knowledge and experiences from their representatives and to become more familiar with the realities of those small island developing States beyond our own geographic region.

We are able, therefore, to connect the regional with the global. Like all systems, what happens in one part of the world has repercussions throughout the whole world. So if we look at that from the standpoint of solidarity and of survival, we are committed to ensuring peace and security in the small island developing States.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Poland.

Mr. Radomski (Poland): Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union. I would like to add a few comments in my national capacity.

At the outset, I congratulate New Zealand on its excellent initiative to devote this open debate to the specific peace and security challenges faced by the small island developing States (SIDS) and to consider how the United Nations system can best respond to them. Today's important debate allows us to deepen the discussion on many issues raised during the Arria Formula meeting on climate change as a threat multiplier, which was organized last month by Malaysia and Spain.

The SIDS face a range of peace and security challenges. Their unique and particular vulnerabilities have been widely acknowledged, for instance at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which took place in Samoa last September. Once again, we thank Samoa for hosting that important conference.

The excellent concept note (S/2015/543, annex) prepared by New Zealand for today's debate very rightly focuses on four main security challenges faced by SIDS: transnational crime and piracy, the illicit exploitation of natural resources, climate change and development. While all of them deserve our attention, I will focus on climate change, and comment briefly on the illicit exploitation of natural resources. Our debate shows how important climate-related challenges are. Owing simply to the rising sea levels the mere existence of small island developing States is threatened.

Poland acknowledges the need for all States to be engaged in the deepened discussion on the influence of climate change on global security. The effectiveness of the new climate regime will have a profound effect on our ability to prevent or mitigate already existing threats. In a globalized and interconnected world, that will impact all our countries.

Furthermore, Poland supports the idea of discussing climate and security issues in the forum of the Security Council, while pursuing agreement on the shape of the new, global climate-protection regime at the level of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Those two forums can work concurrently, using their respective resources and raising awareness of the problem.

Poland sees the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, known as the Paris Climate Change Conference, as an excellent occasion to draw the attention of both leaders and civil society to climate change as a threat multiplier for the global community. Apart from developing a broad research and international response system, we also need to work on concrete solutions to benefit the SIDS. Such solutions should include the loss and damage mechanism agreed at the 2013 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Warsaw and other practical methods for supporting the present and future well-being of the most vulnerable nations, e.g. by securing a separate channel for the financing of SIDS-related actions through the Green Climate Fund.

There is little time to be lost in pondering the modalities for action, and we count on the cooperation of all parties in seeking durable solutions to the problem. The challenges to SIDS need to be approached in a more integrated manner. Complementarity of action across different sectors is essential for ensuring comprehensive risk management. It is very important that the legal frameworks be strengthened so as to be able to respond to and promote resilient development at the local level. The SIDS can deal effectively with climate change challenges and natural disasters only if they have a detailed overview of all of the risks and how those risks relate to their vulnerabilities.

Finally, I would like to draw the Council's attention to the challenge of diminishing natural resources. In that context, unreported and unregulated fishing is one of the most serious problems. Although we come from different parts of the world, we should understand that it is in our common interest to do more when it comes to fighting that threat. Almost a month ago, on 1 July, Poland joined with, inter alia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the Republic of Palau to organize here at the United Nations a high-level symposium entitled "One ocean — Regenerating Fish Stocks: Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14". The conclusion was clear: healthy, resilient and productive oceans contribute to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and the creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work. Our debate today fully confirms the importance of that message.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Belgium.

Mr. Buffin (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): Belgium thanks New Zealand for its initiative in holding today's meeting, thereby giving the small island developing States and their international partners the opportunity to comment on the major challenges to security faced by those States.

We also welcome the holding, last month, of an Arria Formula meeting of the Security Council, which again showed the role of climate change as a threat multiplier for global security. The meeting emphatically reminded us of the existential threat posed by the adverse effects of climate change on low-lying island nations: their land and coastal resources diminish as do their livelihoods, and their fresh water and agricultural resources are reaching their limits, resulting in increased tensions within the affected communities. For some of them, forced emigration becomes the only long-term prospect.

The case for review by the Security Council of the implications of climate change, especially for small island developing States, is therefore becoming increasingly compelling. Accordingly, we would like to see the 2009 report of the Secretary-General entitled "Climate change and its possible security implications" (A/64/350) brought up to date. In that context, Belgium fully supports the commitment of the European Union to reach a legally binding instrument applicable to all parties within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the Conference of the Parties in Paris at the end of this year, taking into account the fact that the European Union will exceed the target for reducing greenhouse gases that it has set for 2020 and that it has embarked on the implementation of its commitment to reduce its emissions by 40 per cent by 2030.

The Outcome document adopted by consensus at the International Conference on Small Island Developing States in September 2014, better known as Samoa Pathway, puts particular emphasis on the need for a strong partnership to meet the challenges. In the document, Member States acknowledge

> "the leadership role of small island developing States in advocating for ambitious global efforts to address climate change, raising awareness of the need for urgent and ambitious action to address climate change at the global level and making efforts to adapt to the intensifying impacts of climate change and to further develop and implement plans, policies, strategies and legislative frameworks with support where necessary". (*General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex, para.33*)

We therefore encourage small island developing States to further strengthen their profile and their position as a group in negotiating the Climate Convention.

For small island States, the link between sustainable development and security appears evident. In that regard, Belgium welcomes the progress made in the negotiation of a new post-2015 development programme. The inclusion in that programme of Goal 14 and its targets, which highlight the importance of oceans, the protection of marine resources and their sustainable use, is the result of an ongoing and sustained commitment on the part of the small island developing States, for which we are grateful. Indeed, we believe that Goal 14 is an essential component of our future programme. Humankind depends on the oceans for its survival and sustainable development. That requires a holistic approach to the oceans and their resources. Small island developing States have played a pioneering and mobilizing role on those issues.

We also welcome the fact that the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development contains many references to small island developing States, their specificities and the particular challenges they face. I quote:

> "SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges."

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda also contains numerous operational references to small island developing States and to climate change, such as investments in enhancing resilience, research on clean energy, services in sustainable energy, adaptation needs through the Green Climate Fund, and marine research.

Finally, we should not lose sight of the fact that other security issues also directly affect small island developing States and need a prompt solution. Belgium is an active partner in the fight against trafficking in drugs, weapons and human beings. Concrete actions against drug trafficking, such as the patrolling by frigates and helicopters of the Belgian Armed Forces in the Caribbean, have contributed for many years to improving the security of countries in the region.

Belgium looks forward to continuing its active engagement with small island developing States on issues of vital importance to all, but whose specific dimension for those countries we need to understand better. Global solidarity unites us, and Belgium is a willing defender thereof.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Marshall Islands.

Ms. Barker-Manase (Marshall Islands): At the outset, I would like to recognize the leaders of the small island developing States (SIDS) who were with us here today, the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica and the Finance Minister of Seychelles, and thank them for their briefings this morning. I also thank the Secretary-General and you, Mr. President, for taking the initiative to organize today's debate. Further, we align ourselves with the statements delivered by the representative of Tonga, who spoke on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, and by the representative of Maldives, who spoke on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

In 1969, responding to the impacts of the nuclear testing that took place during the period where we were a United Nations trust territory, the top diplomat of a major global Power said, "there are only 90,000 people out there. Who gives a damn?" Forty-five years later, with the Second World War and the Cold War now firmly in the past, we approach the Council today as a sovereign member of the United Nations, and the world has dramatically changed. However, our concern is that some of the shades of deep history may still remain. It is not only our own security that is at stake; the problem also serves as a barometer of wider global pressure.

As many speakers before me have said, there is an intrinsic relationship that characterizes countries with small populations, limited resources and an overwhelmingly difficult geography. In the case of the Marshall Islands, 60,000 people populate nearly 2 million square kilometres, an area larger than Mexico. While international partnerships, including shiprider agreements and bilateral security arrangements, have had a strong impact, we nonetheless have only two national boats with which to patrol our entire nation. Some of our neighbours in the Pacific have even greater challenges.

Our baseline condition is State fragility. Many in the Pacific and elsewhere are uniquely vulnerable to external shocks, as well as to outside groups and forces that may seek to offer easy solutions in desperate moments. While many small island Governments, including that of the Marshall Islands, are strongly committed to good governance, democratic principles and the safeguarding of human rights, there is high potential for exceptions. With skyrocketing youth populations and overwhelming unemployment, the long-term risks are only growing. The cumulative impact of domestic instability within fragile nations is a long-term threat to international security.

Our security, as small island and large ocean nations, cannot be considered apart from the security of much larger geostrategic interactions. Some may see our small island nations as strings of pearls, as though our political alliances, borders and in some cases significant marine mineral resources were mere possessions, readily available to the highest bidder or strongest military force in the context of the growing rivalries between major Powers.

Many of these issues, which others have also addressed today and which are outlined in the concept note (S/2015/543, annex), intensify our fragility and increase security threats. As a major fishing port, we have a limited capacity to monitor and address transnational organized crime, in particular when it is associated with illegal fishing, an activity that can net well into the billions of dollars in foreign markets. As a major flag State, we remain very concerned about piracy's impact on global trade, and we also have a clear understanding of the capacity challenges that small island nations face in addressing and controlling such activity.

Finally, while it is possible for us to be warned in a timely manner of imminent hazards, as a low-lying nation we have simply nowhere else to go. We are a nation with no higher ground, so narrow that one can stand in the lagoon and see the ocean on the other side. The impacts of climate change not only pose severe challenges to development, they threaten our land's habitability and raise increasingly problematic questions about political boundaries. As recent weather events have shown, nuclear-waste storage structures from the era of atomic testing are at risk from the rising waters, an issue that we have raised previously with the United Nations.

In the 2011 presidential statement S/PRST/2011/15, the Council expressed its concern that possible security implications could arise from the loss of territory in some States caused by sea-level rise, in particular small, low-lying States, as well as the worry that climate impacts could, in the long run, aggravate certain existing threats to international peace and security. Those should not be seen as empty words. I am asking the Council to act directly to address the situation of small, low-lying atoll States through its formal agenda — we are not helped by its continued silence, general sympathy or references to multilateral negotiations that are ill equipped to directly address this issue as it pertains to low-lying island States.

The Security Council ultimately acts for the whole Organization, not solely on behalf of narrow interests, and it has full power to investigate any situation that could lead to international friction so as to better understand the possible danger to international peace and security. The collective math of all the factors that have been outlined today makes an overwhelming case for the Council's direct and formal treatment of them.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Mrs. Chigiyal (Federated States of Micronesia): Much has been written and said about the specific challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS), and for good reason. SIDS, such as the Federated States of Micronesia, are inherently exposed to factors outside our control and are the single most vulnerable group of countries in the world.

I would like to thank the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica and the Minister of Finance of Seychelles for their briefings this morning.

The Security Council cannot close its eyes to the challenges facing small island developing States, especially the existential threat posed by climate change. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, and your country, New Zealand, for bringing this debate to the Council. As SIDS, we have an inherent interest in the subject.

Speaking as one of the many representatives of island communities appearing before the Council today, we, as islanders, can all welcome the Council's debate on the issue of the peace and security challenges facing our communities. It is appropriate and expected that the Council should address the security issue of our time, namely, climate change. But the Council must go beyond merely debating the issue. It must ensure the security of all peoples and especially those of small island developing States. Its work must be relevant to even the smallest of the members of the United Nations. It must give greater emphasis and attention to the myriad issues that pose peace and security challenges to SIDS, and it should put the issue of climate change and security on its formal agenda. Our vulnerability to security threats, man-made or natural, can be reduced only through collective international efforts, including those of the Security Council. The Council has a moral imperative to act, and really tough decisions must be taken if it is to address the security challenges facing SIDS.

But while the members of the Council and many in the international community may disagree about the various types of security challenges, in our countries it is actually possible to see with awful clarity what those challenges actually mean. Among many other challenges, small island communities are grappling with the simultaneous threats of sea-level rise, extreme weather events and a decline in the viability of fisheries. For our small island developing States, the interconnectedness of security threats needs no explanation. To put it in context, when two of the states in our Federation were struck by Super-typhoon Maysak in March, the storm damaged 90 per cent of their food crops, contaminated their water supplies and left behind widespread destruction of the homes and everything else in its path. Typhoon Maysak's consequences have set back our sustainable development efforts for many years.

Micronesia is a large oceanic State. One of the greatest threats to our sustainable development and economic security is that of the unabated criminal acts represented by illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing. And in a country with such a large exclusive economic zone, the task of patrolling it is daunting. Our area could become a prime location for criminal activities and a transit point for human trafficking and drug smuggling. Not to be overlooked is the issue of sovereignty that would affect my island nation. Our exclusive economic zone, a major source of economic livelihood, would substantially diminish in size, as present measurement baselines, located mostly on the atoll islands, may forever be submerged underwater.

For the islands of Micronesia, the effect, whether through natural disaster or undeterred global warming, and whether abruptly or gradually, will be the same, and that is nothing less than our disappearance from the face of the planet. As the Pacific water and ocean temperature rise, the long-term fate of our islands is dire, as we will be completely engulfed by the sea and remain only as submerged reefs. No amount of development can save us from disappearing if climate change is not adequately addressed. I therefore urge the international community and members of the Council to commit to and adopt an ambitious, legally binding agreement at the Paris Conference.

We have tried to do our part to ensure that we maintain a peaceful and secure society and region. But we know all too well that in an interconnected world, no man is an island. Gone are the days when security was about warfare. New security threats have emerged that can destabilize a society and a region, and we believe that the Security Council should help us pre-empt them. To maintain a peaceful and secure region has no price, and we cannot do it alone.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica.

Mr. Mendoza-García (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like at the outset to thank you, Mr. President, for this important initiative to discuss for the first time the peace and security challenges that small island developing States (SIDS) face.

Costa Rica may not be a member of that group, but it fully empathizes with the peace and security challenges confronting those States. We are in full solidarity with them in the face of the need to work together in the quest for solutions to these challenges.

After having listened to the statements made by the representatives of Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, who spoke so eloquently about their immediate needs as countries, we realize that these are issues to which we must accord maximum priority.

From our perspective, peace and security are essential elements for the achievement of sustainable development. It is not possible for developing countries to achieve higher levels of progress if we do not decrease our vulnerability indices and increase our national resilience, building peaceful societies in which the absence of conflict, the rule of law, good governance and sustainable development are part of our daily realities.

My country believes in the strengthening of a cooperation strategy established by the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action, and we support more specific cooperation among island States and other countries that are not island States but that share challenges, vulnerabilities and aspirations. Working together on the eve of the outcome of negotiations on the new sustainable development agenda and on the basis of the already negotiated Addis Ababa Action Agenda should fuel our desire to deepen our dialogue.

Our aim must always be to promote a comprehensive approach in that respect, acknowledge the various challenges facing this group of countries, place the United Nations system at the heart of the activities, and closely involve the relevant regional and subregional organizations, the international financial system, the private sector, civil society and the populations of the countries concerned, as well any individuals who wish to cooperate with them. These efforts must be accompanied by the establishment of an action plan for cooperation on the part of the international community with middle-income countries, many of which are SIDS.

These efforts also must go hand in hand with the implementation of the Green Climate Fund. It is key to ensure its funding, so that developing countries, including SIDS, will have the financial resources necessary to deal with the impacts of climate change and will be able to provide better, more effective and lasting solutions focused on adaptation and mitigation. We call on the developed countries to fulfil the objective of mobilizing $100 billion annually by 2020, as they have committed to doing.

The emerging global trends caused by natural disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change compel us to look at the big picture, including the effects involuntary human displacements. We believe that initiatives such as the Nansen Initiative on cross-border displacement due to natural disasters can lay the foundation for a protection and prevention agenda so as to guarantee the fundamental rights of the people involved.

To conclude, I wish to call upon all Member States not to forget these and other challenges mentioned in this debate during negotiations at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Conference, in Paris. The agreement we reach there must take into account the main concerns we have expressed here, and we hope that the final Paris outcome will reflect those concerns.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Haiti.

Mr. Régis (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): Allow me at the outset, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Haiti, to congratulate the New Zealand presidency of the Security Council for its initiative to convene this important debate on the specific challenges linked to peace and security facing the small island developing States (SIDS).

The Government of the Republic of Haiti welcomes the fact that this meeting, which is taking place in the wake of the International Year of Small Island Developing States (2014) and of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, is being held at a turning point, on the eve of the adoption of a new United Nations post-2015 agenda for development and just a few months before the International Climate Change Conference in Paris.

Small island developing States are often presented as a special case when it comes to sustainable development. In many ways, their vulnerability is extreme. There is justified concern that their economic situation has progressed less than the majority of other groups, and that is when it has not actually regressed, particularly in terms of poverty reduction. Regardless of the parameters used to measure sustainable development, small island developing States are one of the areas of the world in difficulty, according to the United Nations. They suffer many structural handicaps, which are often exacerbated by security-related problems.

The Republic of Haiti, like all small island developing States, is grappling with multiple challenges linked to inadequate resources, exposure to natural disasters and to environmental crises, and vulnerability to external economic shocks. This is coupled with the rise in sea levels and the consequences of climate change, which not only hamper the march of SIDS towards sustainable development, but also pose an acute risk to their survival and viability. The situation of SIDS is therefore unquestionably an important issue in the context of peace and international security.

Security has indeed a multidimensional character, which now extends beyond traditional military issues to encompass new threats to peace that are more diffuse, more fragmented and often more social than military in nature. These include the challenges linked to economic and social development, stability and environmental sustainability, but also, of course, natural disasters and environmental crises.

To a great degree, the situation in Haiti demonstrates the close relationship among security, peace and development. In 2004, in the wake of a serious political crisis that had severely tested the stability of the country and its development prospects, the Security Council decided to create the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Today, 10 years later, the country has fortunately taken its destiny back into its own hands. The establishment of democracy, protection of human rights and the full enjoyment of fundamental freedoms are today indisputable achievements. Strengthened by its restored stability and security, in recent years Haiti has seen a significant recovery in its economy, characterized by the creation of new businesses, dynamic investment, a rebirth of its tourist industry and a general revival of its development process. After several decades of stagnation, the economy is enjoying growth again.

At the same time, on the political front, the country is moving determinedly towards upcoming legislative, municipal and presidential elections, credible elections that must guarantee the proper functioning of institutions, facilitate the changing of politicians at all levels and allow for a peaceful, orderly transition of power in 2016. The Haitian Government welcoms the contribution of MINUSTAH in obtaining those results, which have played a significant role in stability and the maintenance of peace, and whose contribution to development has been broadly recognized.

However, that progress, as tangible as it is, cannot conceal the extent of the difficulties or the severity of the challenges that the country still faces. For, as long as the necessary public infrastructure remains lacking and poverty is not eradicated or at least substantially reduced, democracy will seem like a pipe dream to the vast majority of the population that face harsh everyday economic realities. That is why we must welcome recent initiatives by the Security Council to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. We can only welcome its growing concern to examine the myriad sources of conflict, instability and threats, which in particularly vulnerable situations such as that of Haiti combine to fuel insecurity, prevent peace and consequently impede growth and development.

Peace and development go hand in hand. There can be no peace or genuine security without development. Human security is one of the preconditions for peace and development. The management of security, in all of its facets, must therefore play a part in a global approach that rejects unilateralism and is based on the strength of interdependence. It requires increased cooperation among States and coherent actions at all levels — national, bilateral, regional and global levels.

To assist small island developing States in meeting the challenges of peace and security is, first, to help them deal with both internal and external threats, which have a considerable impact on their development — political, economic, social, environmental, cultural and human — as well as on their stability and on the sustainability of that development. Assisting them amounts to helping them deal with environmental crises, which threaten to entirely undermine their development efforts and to compromise the hard-fought progress and results achieved in the fields of health, agriculture and environmental sustainability. Additionally, assisting them especially helps them to better deal with their specific vulnerabilities. Clearly, that is predicated on strengthening existing partnerships in order to support their work for sustainable development. Accordingly, a new spirit of solidarity with small island developing States, particularly with the least developed and most vulnerable among them, is vital.

The commitments undertaken by the international community within the framework of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action, and the 2014 SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action should not remain dead letters. They must be followed by concrete actions, coordinated, balanced and integrated, which in many cases are urgently needed.

Regarding Haiti, allow me to stress the particular importance that we attach to reinforcing partnerships in various areas where intervention is urgently needed – especially in education; adaptation to climate change; food and energy security; investments in renewable energy; the fight against desertification, soil degradation and droughts; and the mitigation of disaster risks – not to mention the often exorbitant budgetary impact of natural disasters on small island developing States, which is recognized by the international cooperation programmes.

The Haitian Government hopes that this meeting marks a new milestone in the quest for and implementation of bold, effective and innovative partnerships that we earnestly desire and that will meet the particular challenges facing SIDS. We trust that this enriching debate will lead to conclusions and recommendations that will be used to advance the dialogue on certain issues essential to our common future, to international peace and security and to the sustainable development of SIDS — whose viability and very survival are at stake today.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan.

Mr. Rakhmetullin (Kazakhstan): I would like to thank New Zealand for convening this debate, highlighting the extreme vulnerability of small island developing States (SIDS) to the impact of climate change, which threatens their very survival. The devastating effects of climate change, which occurred once in a century, are now occurring with increasing frequency and greater intensity, warning and compelling us to act accordingly and promptly.

We need to assist SIDS in combating the negative effects of conflict, violence, organized crime and cybercrime, human trafficking, terrorism and disease epidemics because those countries face the highest disaster risks and have less resilience to external shocks and crises than any other group of countries. Those threats know no boundaries; they are transnational. They present a threat not only to SIDS but also to other groups, such as least developed countries and landlocked least developed countries, as well as to global security in general.

We have to think collectively how to reduce the strain on water resources around the world, which will bring fundamental transformations in the global landscape, agriculture, trade and human existence, resulting in an unspeakable humanitarian toll. Our immediate task is to reduce the impact on development caused by the destruction of all types of infrastructure that is disrupting not only the SIDS but causing worldwide disruption in our interconnected world.

With their very fragile economies, SIDS need our support for capacity-building: they need technology transfer to overcome crises that can destabilize them completely. Climate change adaptation therefore demands a global response, while we formulate the post-2015 development goals, and calls for maximum commitments to the climate agreement to be forged in Paris in December.

Kazakhstan gives serious attention to climate change mitigation at the national, regional and international levels. Just a few days ago, ice melting on the glaciers near my former capital, Almaty, as a result of unusually high temperatures caused a flood and mudslide. That clearly demonstrated our own vulnerability with regard to climate change and disaster risk reduction. My country has officially declared its intention to take on voluntary quantitative commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It has launched its own reduced domestic emissions trading scheme, thereby moving towards a low-carbon economy. The Government and business community of Kazakhstan welcome enhanced cross-national cooperation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and linkage to national markets as important tools for climate change mitigation.

Kazakhstan will honour its obligations most strictly and will lead the way, through the United Nations hub in Almaty, for sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and building resilience in Central Asia, and will share those efforts with SIDS. Also the Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction — under the Ministry of Emergencies, with support from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Environment Programme and other international organizations, together with domestic non-governmental organizations — will spearhead capacity-building for climate mitigation, early warning and preventive and emergency relief and rehabilitation work on behalf of the Central Asian region.

Realizing that advanced energy technologies will have an increasing impact on climate change, Kazakhstan has chosen the theme "Future Energy" for Expo 2017, which Astana will host in 2017. The Expo focus will be on developing and using alternative energy sources and the best global energy-efficiency technologies, in partnership with other countries. We have organized seminars in Astana for over 60 developing countries on Future Energy to take advantage of the Expo. We also hosted a side event during the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia, where we addressed future energy issues for SIDS and introduced an ESCAP project on training for and installation and maintenance of biogas systems for SIDS, in which Kazakhstan is closely involved. Kazakhstan will therefore provide support to representatives of approximately 60 developing countries to participate in the Expo.

In conclusion, I reiterate Kazakhstan's readiness to be an active part in the international community through decisive, bold action to deal with the challenges faced by SIDS.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt): Egypt recognizes the initiative taken by New Zealand in organizing this open debate as the first open debate addressing the specific challenges faced by a group of 37 countries and territories with a combined population of 15 million.

Egypt believes that small island developing States (SIDS) remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and their peace and security challenges. Therefore, the United Nations system and the international community must undertake their responsibilities in supporting SIDS to overcome their vulnerabilities and transform them from challenges into opportunities. In that regard, allow me to highlight the following remarks.

There is an urgent need to support the efforts of small island developing States to combat trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and international piracy by promoting the accession, ratification and implementation of applicable conventions, by enacting and using legislation that prohibits trafficking, by promoting strong institutions and capacity-building, by providing sufficient financial resources and by achieving coordination and synergies among national, regional and international efforts.

The challenges related to the illicit exploitation of natural resources are global in nature, but their impact on SIDS is especially devastating. Efforts to sustainably manage natural resources and increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises rely heavily on the management capacity of institutions and on coordination and governance mechanisms. There is a need to build capacities and develop an agenda of institutional strengthening and capacity-building at regional, national and local levels. That must be achieved through partnerships among SIDS in and across regions and between SIDS and the international community.

Natural disasters, desertification, land degradation and drought are major threats for small island developing States and impede their progress towards sustainable development. There is a critical need to build resilience, strengthen monitoring and prevention, reduce vulnerability, raise awareness and increase preparedness and resilience policies to respond to and recover from disasters and other challenges. The role of the international community is of vital importance.

The outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, namely, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) outlines a series of threats affecting peace and security, as well as the challenges faced by SIDS. It further identifies an action plan to respond to them effectively. Our mission now is to guarantee the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and to transform our political commitment into concrete policies and actions.

Egypt is committed to supporting all of the efforts of SIDS to overcome their major existential challenges. It reiterates its commitment to respect the mandate of General Assembly resolution 63/281, which recognizes the respective responsibilities of the principal organs of the United Nations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. Oyarzábal (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset I wish to thank the Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Samoa, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Minister of Finance of Seychelles and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand — your country, Mr. President — for their statements at the start of today's open debate. We also especially welcome the high-level participation on the part of the small island developing States (SIDS), which highlights the importance of the debate. We are grateful for the opportunity provided to address the challenges facing SIDS in an open debate in the Security Council.

SIDS face major challenges linked to multiple variables that affect their security. While the entire international community faces challenges related to drug trafficking, terrorism, criminal gangs and arms trafficking, among others, SIDS seem to be more exposed to their harmful consequences, due to their limited capacities and size.

Argentina expresses its support for and solidarity with SIDS in the face of the growing challenges confronting them. Therefore, as in the past, we appeal to the Security Council to assist SIDS in matters of international peace and security, pursuant to its primary responsibility. Likewise, we also request the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to strengthen their cooperation with and support for SIDS in the areas within their competencies.

Arms trafficking and organized crime are the most dangerous challenge for many SIDS, where criminals often find facilities to conduct their murky activities, including trafficking in arms and illegal drugs. We therefore call upon those SIDS that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible and to implement its relevant measures to regulate and control arms trafficking in their own States.

With respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea, we know that in many cases SIDS lack the infrastructure and capacity to control and eradicate that complex challenge, which affects many island and peninsular States. We call on the international community and the Security Council to remain vigilant in confronting the situation and to cooperate with States that need help in ending to the problem.

We acknowledge that in certain circumstances, the lack of growth, poverty and persistent inequalities can cause problems for societies in conflict or post-conflict. Argentina has often expressed its vision that there can be no genuine, lasting peace without development. In that regard, we call on the international community to cooperate with the States involved through the competent forums — the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system — so that they can truly enjoy their right to development, which faces many complex challenges arising from structural poverty, unemployment, the lack of opportunities for young people, the lack of education and health problems, among others, which underline the importance of the post-2015 agenda being negotiated.

We would like to conclude, Mr. President, by once again thanking you for having brought to our consideration the challenges confronting small island development States. The international community cannot remain indifferent or forget that the challenges SIDS face can have especially negative consequences because of their limited response capability, which in turn can affect not only the peace and security of the SIDS themselves, but international peace and security as well.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco.

Mr. Lassel (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank the New Zealand presidency for convening this debate on the security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS). My delegation is convinced that this debate will help to deepen our consideration of how to strengthen peace and security in those countries.

The topic we are discussing today enjoys high priority on the agenda of the United Nations. The convening of this meeting is timely, comes as it does after the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and as we are pursuing negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, as well as during preparations for the Paris Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We therefore trust that our debate shall formulate recommendations reflecting the international community's commitment to taking tangible steps to remedy the vulnerability of small island developing States, notably in terms of security and the challenges of transnational crime.

International action aimed at strengthening the resilience of those States to security challenges should be taken in parallel with the implementation of the Action Agenda and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The strengthening of the relevant constructive partnerships must take into consideration the establishment of specific projects for the benefit of the sustainable development of small island developing States.

The adoption of the Barbados Programme of Action in 1994 and the Mauritius Strategy in 2005 kindled great hope and launched an impetus that must be maintained. However, these two instruments have not enjoyed the anticipated success, despite the good results achieved thanks to the consistent commitments of the Government of the small island developing States. Today, small island developing States continue to face security challenges coupled with other socioeconomic problems, limiting their capacity for growth and development. That is reflected, inter alia, in an infrastructure deficit, weak productive capacities and poor integration of those countries into the world economy, as shown in their still very low volume of trade and increasing vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

Indeed, for years the devastating impact of climate change that threatens the various ecosystems of the planet has had detrimental repercussions on those countries, which already face such problems as rising sea levels, natural and environmental disasters, waste management, and the need to preserve coastal and maritime resources and biodiversity. Those countries' economies remain dependent on a few sectors, such as tourism, which has been affected by the impact of climate change and natural disasters, or the export of basic commodities, the prices of which have suffered significant fluctuations on international markets, making their economic growth even more vulnerable to external shocks.

Diversifying the economies of those countries in order to enhance the share of the manufacturing sector and improving their productive capacities remains the most appropriate way to achieve lasting growth in those countries and to bolster their resilience. In order to achieve the change necessary to supporting their growth, SIDS need a significant mobilization of official development assistance, foreign direct investment, technology transfer and access to markets. With respect to climate change and natural disasters, it is necessary to bolster both the prevention and the adaption capacities of those countries, whose environmental vulnerability has grown in recent years. National policy support programmes must be conceived and implemented with the support of international institutions. To that end, we need to build on the results of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of June 2012, particularly in terms of global governance, sustainable development, the biodiversity of the oceans and seas, and financing for sustainable development.

For the Kingdom of Morocco, South-South partnership is a strategic choice, and it has always been mindful of the problems of the small island developing States, with which it shares aspirations as formulated in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. Morocco remains convinced that increased cooperation in regard to clean technology transfer, the utilization of renewable energies and the financing of sustainable development projects will substantially contribute to the economic recovery and stability of those countries. My country has always been aware of the challenges facing SIDS and contributed actively at the first meeting with the Pacific SIDS, held in Rabat on 13 December 2012. The work undertaken at that meeting was endorsed by a joint press release concering the strengthening of bilateral relations, cooperation and coordination with all those States.

The resurgence of terrorism and transnational crime requires the international community to take the necessary precautions and appropriate measures to spare these vulnerable countries from such activities and to help them integrate into the world economy. Morocco, which shares the security concerns of small island developing States, has therefore always advocated for for efficient cooperation and joint efforts at the regional and international levels to bolster safety and security systems around the world. For that reason, my country will continue to support international efforts to improve cooperation with those States in the field of security and remains willing to share its own experience and to place at their disposal its own expertise in various sectors related to socioeconomic development. That cooperation is also reflected through a multitude of human development projects linked to the demands of globalization and democracy and in terms of access, duty-free and quota-free access to its markets.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Eler (Turkey): Let me join the delegations that have spoken before us in thanking the New Zealand presidency of the Council for convening this timely meeting to address the security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS). Our thanks also go to the Secretary-General for his briefing. It was a pleasure to listen to the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica and the Minister of Finance of Seychelles, who presented briefings on their regional perspectives on peace and security challenges faced by the SIDS.

Turkey has become increasingly active in sharing its own development experiences and in contributing to international development cooperation efforts in countries in special situations, including the SIDS. The declaration of 2014 as the International Year of SIDS was of particular importance for the acknowledgement of the challenges faced by SIDS. We were pleased to create opportunities throughout the International Year of SIDS to give fresh momentum to our political engagement with SIDS from different regions.

Within this framework, I would like to mention two important meetings we hosted in 2014. The first meeting, held from 7 to 8 June 2014, was on Turkey and the Pacific SIDS. The second, on the Turkey-Caribbean Community consultation and cooperation mechanism, took place on 18 July 2014. The respective outcome documents of those ministerial meetings — namely the Bosphorus Declaration and the Istanbul Declaration — will shape our efforts, partnership and engagement towards the SIDS.

We would like once again to congratulate Samoa for hosting the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in a very successful and able manner in September 2014. The Conference and its Outcome document and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action contained therein will be guiding our efforts in the years to come and its effective implementation will be crucial.

As the current President of the Group of Twenty (G-20), Turkey's priorities are summarized as the three "i"s, namely inclusiveness, implementation and investment for growth. We also placed development at the centre of the G-20 agenda this year. The Turkish Presidency has introduced a strong low-income developing countries (LIDCs) perspective into the G-20 agenda. We are focused on reaching out to LIDCs, almost all of which belong to categories of countries in special situations. The SIDS face a wide range of challenges in pursuing sustainable development, and we believe that the G-20 has an important contribution to make in addressing their vulnerabilities and building resilience.

To give members of the Council a concrete example and as part of our outreach activities, we organized, together with Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean Region Dialogue with the G-20 Development Working Group in Washington, D.C., last April. During that meeting, an enthusiastic exchange of development policy experiences and insights, knowledge-sharing and the exploration of opportunities took place, which was aimed at deepening existing relationships.

Climate change is one of the toughest global challenges facing our century. Tackling climate change requires global solidarity and effective action. The SIDS and LIDCs are the countries most vulnerable to and negatively affected by global warming. Increasing their resilience to climate change requires enhanced financial and technological support. In that context, the international community, the developed countries in particular, should mobilize adequate levels of finance from public and private resources for those countries. Climate change poses an immediate and real threat to the survival of those peoples and communities. If urgent action is not taken, living conditions in those countries will get worse, eventually leading to disastrous consequences. In that framework, the significance of resilience and preparedness must be emphasized.

The G-20 agenda has a special focus on climate finance. The G-20 Climate Finance Study Group has been considering ways to effectively mobilize resources, bearing in mind the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We aim to facilitate the access of LIDCs to climate funds. In that regard, a toolkit for access to adaptation finance by developing countries and an inventory of methods for climate change study are being prepared as the main deliverables of the Climate Finance Study Group this year.

In the period ahead, our commitment will remain strong to work together with SIDS in order to develop our cooperation based on a shared agenda for sustainable development, which is directly linked with peace and security challenges. The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, to be held May 2016 in Istanbul, will provide a very valuable platform to discuss all those issues in length and depth.

2015 is a landmark year for sustainable development. We have successfully completed the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was recently held in Addis Ababa. We are confident that Addis Ababa will set a good precedent for the upcoming United Nations Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda in September and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in December. From the outset, Turkey has supported the well-founded request of the SIDS for a stand-alone oceans goal in the post-2015 development agenda, which is now Sustainable Development Goal 14. We support that goal within Turkey's well-known position regarding the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

We believe that, as a member of the United Nations, we should continue our pragmatic, constructive and forward-looking approach as we address the concerns of countries in special situations, including the SIDS, in a way that leaves no one behind.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Mminele (South Africa): Mr. President, I thank you for ably presiding over the Security Council in July and for convening this important debate. South Africa also thanks the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the representatives of the small island developing States (SIDS) for their briefings.

South Africa recognizes the fact that sustainable development and the peace and security of SIDS can be negatively affected by crime and violence, as well as by conflict, piracy, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking and transnational crime. In particular, the lack of sustainable livelihoods and opportunities for further education and the break down in community support structures can lead to increasing numbers of people becoming involved in crime.

With specific regard to piracy, as early as 2010 South Africa involved itself in counter-piracy engagements, which have been formalized in partnerships with other African Member States, such as Mozambique and Tanzania, under the auspices of the Southern African Development Community. That collaboration has led to various successes, as reflected by the fending-off of pirate attacks in Tanzanian waters in 2012, in cooperation with the European Union deployment, entitled Operation Copper.

Furthermore, Operation Copper has set up training programmes as a capacity-building mechanism working with neighbouring countries. More recently, South Africa has also begun to focus its naval operations on counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Guinea. South Africa therefore supports the efforts of SIDS to:

First, combat trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and international piracy;

Secondly, promote the accession, ratification and implementation of applicable conventions;

Thirdly, enact and apply legislation that prohibits trafficking; and,

Fourthly, promote strong institutions and improve protection mechanisms to ensure adequate care for victims of sex trafficking and forced labour, in accordance with the relevant national and international agreements and treaties.

Furthermore, my delegation supports the development of action plans in SIDS aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls, who are often targets of gender-based violence and are disproportionately affected by crime, violence and conflict.

Peace, security, stability and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as well as respect for cultural diversity, are essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring that sustainable development benefits all. All countries will face the adverse impacts of climate change, but the world's most vulnerable peoples will suffer the most. And yet, those societies are the least responsible for the global challenges that we are now facing. In addition to that shared challenge, rising sea levels owing to climate change ultimately pose an existential threat to SIDS.

Even climate change scenarios reflecting moderate warming during this century could have devastating consequences, as increases in extreme weather and slow onset events could further worsen food and water security challenges, undermine community development, compromise critical infrastructure, weaken State governance and strain social cohesion. Such threats, if not addressed in a timely fashion, could well reshape the future global security environment by affecting vulnerable countries' political and social stability and economic security. Strong domestic action and robust global cooperation is the only way to tackle those global challenges, particularly through the adoption of a fair and ambitious multilateral agreement in Paris at the end of the year at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

We believe that the Paris agreement should give equal priority to mitigation and adaptation, while establishing clear linkages between the action that is required of countries and the means of implementation. That should include enhanced support for country-driven climate action, including for climate change-related disaster risk management and for building resilience in all vulnerable regions, such as SIDS, least developed countries and Africa.

Furthermore, SIDS represent a multidimensional concept. Specific challenges for small island developing countries include, among other things, environmental degradation, natural disasters, food insecurity, water scarcity, HIV/AIDS, narco-trafficking, small-arms trafficking and the impact of terrorism on the economic sectors, particularly tourism. The implementation of the sustainable development agenda for small island developing States must proceed despite the current emphasis on security. In that regard, we must acknowledge the increased financial and administrative obligation at the national level that this places on all small island developing States, as part of the global fight against terrorism.

In conclusion, South Africa urges the international community to fulfil its commitments to SIDS and to help them build their capacity in strategic areas such as trade, information and communications technology, investment, capacity-building, disaster management, the environment, food and agriculture, the oceans, water, energy, health and education. That will help them to push back against the plethora of challenges that have been identified in today's debate.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Georgia.

Mr. Imnadze (Georgia): At the outset, I would like to thank the presidency of New Zealand and its Minister for Foreign Affairs for his leadership in bringing this issue to the Security Council. I would also like to thank the high-level briefers — the Prime Ministers of Samoa and Jamaica and the Minister of Finance of the Seychelles — for their informative and insightful interventions.

I would also like to align myself with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union.

In today's world, the meaning of security can no longer be linked merely to an absence of military threats. Security risks manifest themselves in a range of areas that know no boundaries and cannot be tackled by a single country; they require a collective effort. Transnational crime and piracy, the illicit exploitation of natural resources, climate change and natural disasters are among such threats. By putting them on its agenda, the Council encourages us to take stock of the United Nations programmes aimed at addressing such challenges and to seek ways to reinvigorate our efforts to mitigate them.

Climate change is a global security challenge. In the near term it poses a direct, immediate threat to small island developing States (SIDS), which are in fact those least responsible for the problem. In the long run, no country — whether it is an island, mountainous, landlocked, developing or highly developed — can be immune when nature strikes back. Reducing vulnerability in today's changing global landscape is therefore a cross-cutting and complex development issue that requires an unprecedented effort that encompasses scientific knowledge, innovation, public understanding, careful development planning, responsible enforcement of policies and legislation, political and legal commitment, enhanced human and institutional capacity and, of course, efficient disaster management.

The outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States explicitly states that there is an urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and ensure genuine and durable partnerships at the national, regional and international levels in order to address issues related to SIDS' sustainable development priorities and needs. I would once again like to reiterate Georgia's commitment to that outcome and to the need to establish a platform under United Nations auspices that can adequately address the issues of SIDS, which include 37 countries, one fifth of the United Nations membership. Over the past decade, Georgia has developed steady partnerships with important SIDS organizations, such as the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum, as well as with individual SIDS countries, in areas that include cooperation in education, the sharing of experience and public-sector reform.

Georgia is not an island, but as a small developing nation it faces many challenges similar to those experienced by SIDS, whether earthquakes, floods, soil erosion and degradation and severe climate fluctuations. That is of course in addition to the illegal exploitation and unsustainable use of our natural resources, the militarization of our agricultural and urban infrastructure and other security threats stemming from the fact that 20 per cent of our territory is under foreign military occupation. The adverse impact of all such issues on our ecosystem and economy has helped to motivate my country's commitment to sustainable development. The Georgian Government is currently undertaking efforts to limit greenhouse-gas emission levels by boosting investments in low-carbon, energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies. In 2013, we began to prepare a low-emission development strategy and established a high-level inter-ministerial committee under the leadership of our Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection. My country has set itself the ambitious goal of becoming entirely carbon neutral by 2050.

In conclusion, I would like to stress once again Georgia's standing commitments and readiness to continue our engagement with SIDS, both within the framework of international organizations and bilaterally and, by achieving sustainable development and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, its willingness to make more tangible and resolute steps towards preserving international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Tuvalu.

Mrs. Simati (Tuvalu): It is indeed an honour for Tuvalu to participate in this Security Council open debate on small island developing States (SIDS). I thank our leaders from the Pacific, the Council members and the United Nations membership for their insights and leadership on an issue that is dear to our hearts — climate change and the security of our island nations.

At the outset, Tuvalu would like to associate itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Tonga, Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, and the Maldives, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States.

Tuvalu is grateful to the Government of New Zealand, as President of the Security Council for the month of July, for its initiative in holding this meeting and instituting a dialogue on issues related to peace and security in the Pacific and SIDS in general. As we exchange views here on those issues, we are always grateful for recognition of SIDS' special situation and context.

Climate change is the greatest challenge facing Tuvalu, threatening as it does the livelihoods, security and well-being of all Tuvaluans. It is a security, development and environmental issue. During the discussions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, many Security Council members noted that climate change is a cross-cutting issue. It is very much so, and therefore we cannot consider it as something that can be treated as a silo. We recall the urgency with which the Ebola epidemic was considered, and how so many United Nations institutions, including the Security Council, collaborated to address the issue as a security threat. We need to focus that same attention and urgency, on the part of all United Nations institutions, including the Council, on the impacts of climate change. Climate change causes sea-level rise, which inundates many island coastlines; it floods plains and deltas in larger, heavily populated countries; it damages food crops and displaces many people. It is a security issue that is urgent and inter-generational. And it is an existential issue for Tuvalu and other Pacific countries.

Tropical Cyclone Pam, which hit Vanuatu and other Pacific countries, devastated Tuvalu early in March. Given Tuvalu's low elevation and small size — 24 square kilometres of land surrounded by a vast ocean — and despite the fact that Tuvalu was hit only by the periphery of Cyclone Pam, the devastation was significant, further confirming our high vulnerability to the increasing occurrences we are seeing of natural disasters, rising sea level and other climate-change-related events. It is estimated that approximately $92 million is needed for recovery efforts and to better protect the people of Tuvalu from future disasters. Yesterday, on Wednesday, 29 July, on its capital island, Funafuti, Tuvalu held its first high-level dialogue on Cyclone Pam with its development partners, aimed at responding actively with the goal not only of recovery but also of strengthening the resilience of the people, communities and islands of our tiny nation.

The seriousness, reality and urgency of the climate-change problem demands more than our heartfelt conversation; it simply needs us to act now. We need the Security Council to recognize climate change as a global security threat, put the issues of climate change and environmental security on its agenda and take immediate steps to address them. Tuvalu and other atoll-island countries in the Pacific may be the first to feel the brunt of the impacts of climate change, but the whole world is bound to feel them if nothing is done urgently.

While we debate and talk, lives are being affected and our coastal areas are disappearing. In fact, four small islets in Tuvalu have disappeared since 2000, two of them as a result of Cyclone Pam in March. They were here one day and gone the next. That is how fast our islands could disappear, in the blink of an eye, if nothing is done to address climate change. Tuvaluans rely on the country's meagre land mass for the basic needs for their survival, food and shelter. If their land begins to disappear, the people of Tuvalu will find themselves restricted in their access to their basic survival needs and their right to live comfortably in their God-given homeland. Unfortunately, although human lives were not lost, other living organisms that made their home on those islets lost their lives. The higher tides and the effects we are seeing do not lie; they tell us that somehow, somewhere, the chain of events that causes sea levels to rise demands our urgent attention and action. We cannot continue along this path.

SIDS issues are now legislated in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and we must cooperate in order to genuinely address SIDS' resilience and vulnerabilities. The support of partners in financing for adaptation to climate change cannot be the total answer to this universal problem. We need moral reform; we need science and new technology to help keep the average rise in temperatures well below 1.5° Celsius; and we must reach a credible agreement at the 2015 Paris Climate Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Security Council should review its mandate so that it can fully embrace the concept of environmental security. The post-2015 agenda seeks to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights, for all peoples; please, let us cooperate to achieve that with dignity and honour.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Ms. Paik Ji-ah (Republic of Korea): I would like to begin by congratulating the delegation of New Zealand on its successful presidency of the Security Council. As Member States prepare to adopt an ambitious new set of sustainable development goals, it is high time that the Council consider the peace and security challenges faced by the people residing in the areas that we identify as small island developing States (SIDS).

From the Pacific across the Mozambique Channel and the Gulf of Guinea to the Caribbean, SIDS, owing to their unique geographical characteristics, are indeed more vulnerable to a series of security challenges. The Republic of Korea fully recognizes those challenges, and has engaged with partners around the world that can be identified as SIDS in order to help them address their needs in various ways.

As a member of the Combined Task Force 151 in the Gulf of Aden and Chair, until last year, of Working Group 3 of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), the Republic of Korea remains committed to fighting the problem of piracy and transnational organized crime that exploits the vastness of the open sea. Recognizing that there is a great need for capacity-building, the Republic of Korea has been making contributions to the CGPCS trust fund and the Djibouti Code trust fund of the International Maritime Organization in order to adequately strengthen the capacities of the directly affected States. In addition, we are working with the Friends of the Gulf of Guinea to encourage implementation of the code of conduct adopted at the first Gulf of Guinea Maritime Security Summit Meeting.

Recognizing the importance of the effective conservation and management of natural resources, the Republic of Korea is working closely with Pacific island countries on the sustainable development of marine and fisheries resources in the Pacific Ocean. The scope of our cooperation extends to marine scientific research, exploration for deep-sea mineral resources and renewable energy, including ocean thermal energy conversion.

Climate change constitutes a critical economic, social and security threat to the international community, including SIDS. To help to address that threat, we recently hosted the World Water Forum, aimed at exploring policy options for preventing water security crises, following the 2013 International Conference on Climate Security in the Asia-Pacific Region. Korea is committed to international efforts to establish a new climate regime that can enable us to pursue a path towards low-carbon and sustainable development.

Finally, as a nation that is often cited as a rare example of a least-developed-country-turned-donor, the Republic of Korea has a unique take on what it takes to overcome poverty and promote sustainable development. Through initiatives such as the Korea-Pacific Island Cooperation Fund and an annual high-level forum on the Korea-Caribbean partnership, we renew our commitment to expanding our overseas development assistance in order to meet the specific needs of our SIDS partners.

Those are just a few examples of our efforts to respond to the problems faced by our SIDS partners. However, given the vast scope and complexities of those problems, only by harnessing the collective will of the entire international community can we hope to find genuine solutions to them. In that regard, my delegation appreciates New Zealand's initiative in bringing this important issue before the Council, and we will take due note of all the statements made today in this Chamber.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I would like to thank everyone who participated today, both from the delegations of small island developing States and those of the many other Member States who spoke.

> Before adjourning the meeting, since this is the last scheduled meeting of the Council for the month of July 2015, I would like to express the sincere appreciation of the delegation of New Zealand to the members of the Security Council, especially the Permanent Representatives and their staffs, and to the secretariat of the Council for all the support they have given us.

It has been a very busy month, and one in which we addressed many pressing issues. On some very important questions we were able to achieve consensus, and we could not have done that alone and without the hard work, support and positive contributions of every delegation and the representatives of the Secretariat, as well as all the relevant conference service officers. As we end our presidency, I know I speak on behalf of my colleagues on the Council in offering the delegation of Nigeria our very best wishes and good luck for the month of August.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.